



RANDY "Macho Man" SAVAGE
ICW WORLD HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION

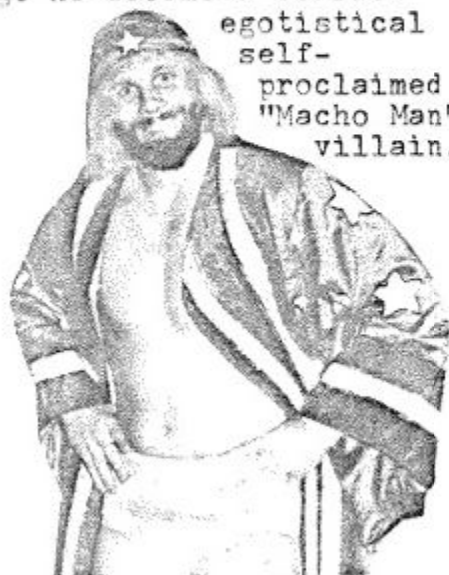


RANDY SAVAGE

POFFO, RANDY

brother of Leaping Lanny Poffo and son of veteran Angelo Poffo, Randy became Randy Savage in 1977. As Savage he became a bearded

egotistical self-proclaimed "Macho Man" villain.

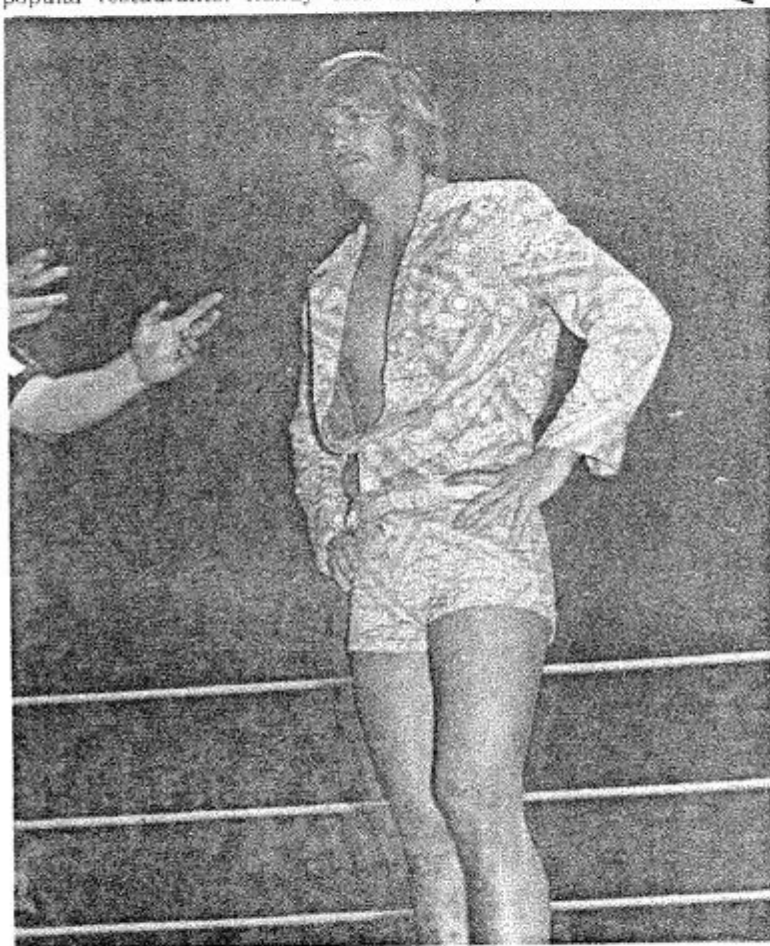


RANDY POFFO

When your father is ring veteran Angelo Poffo and your little brother is "Leaping Lanny" Poffo, the smart thing to do is to join them as a wrestler also, right? Wrong! Randy Poffo, the latest addition of the Poffos to the wrestling world, started out in life to be a professional baseball player!

Leaning back in a comfortable chair at one of Detroit's popular restaurants, Randy told his story: "I was always

APRIL 17, 1976
DETROIT, MICH.

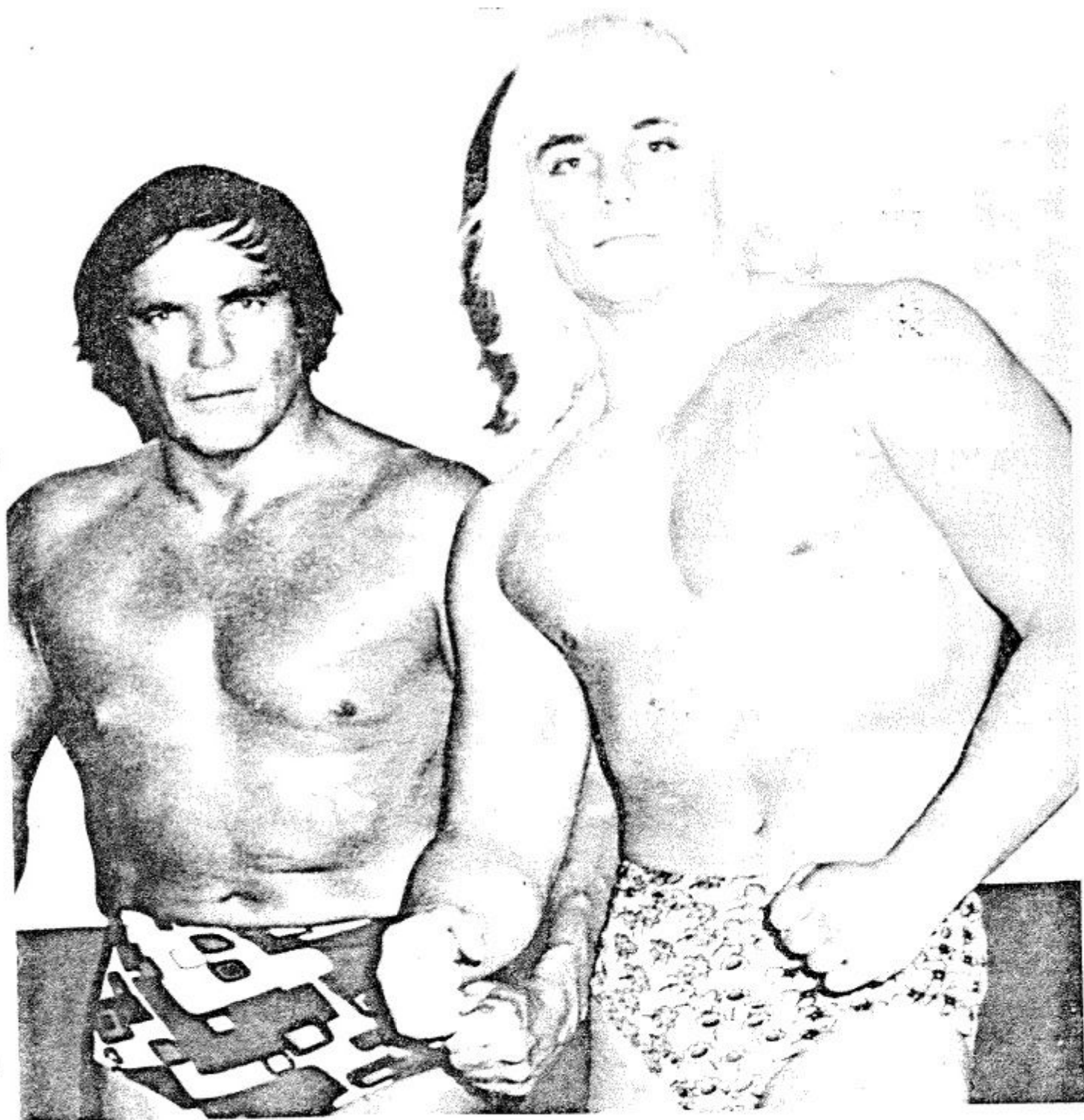


surrounded by wrestling in one way or another, what with Dad wrestling all over the country, and Lanny training to be a wrestler himself. I loved athletics, and I always knew I could get into wrestling if I wanted to, and Dad never pushed either Lanny or I into anything."

Randy's first love was baseball, and that's what he wanted to do most of all. In high school he starred in baseball, football and basketball, and was one of the first baseball players who could throw with either hand. It seemed only natural that he make it as a professional ballplayer. After high school, his next four years were spent at the training camps and farm clubs of the St. Louis Cardinals, Cincinnati Reds and the Chicago White Sox. But as Poffo put it, "I knew my limits, and although I think I eventually would have played for a major league team, I don't think I ever would have made a real career out of it. My goal was to be the best in a sport, and I knew that I'd never be another Pete Rose or Johnny Bench."

Baseball's loss was wrestling's gain. Fans everywhere are welcoming the highly skilled Randy to their wrestling arenas. To watch him in the ring, one could never guess that he has been actively wrestling for only three months.





ANGELO POFFO

LEAPING LANNY

POFFO, ANGELO

A top veteran, still active in 1979 ... father of two sons who became top stars and teamed with him at times, Leaping Lanny and Randy.

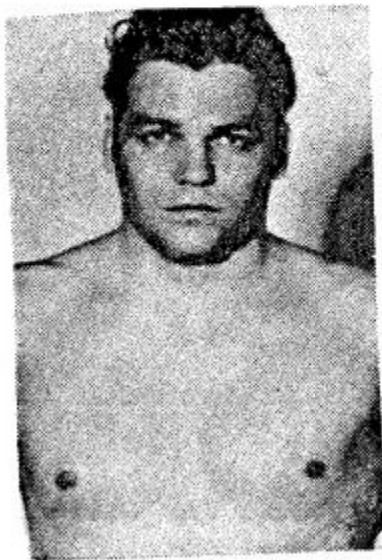
Angelo was the first recipient of "Wrestling Revue"'s Wrestler of the Month award, an article announcing this selection was in that magazine's Feb. '62 issue. This article states that:

- in 1945 on the San Diego, Calif. naval base, Angelo as an 18 year old sailor spent four hours and ten minutes setting a new world sit-up record, which was later chronicled in Robert L. Ripley's famous "Believe It or Not" newspaper feature.
- Angelo graduated from Chicago's DePauw University where he was an intercollegiate chess champion and swimmer.
- Angelo teamed up with manager Bronko Lubich in 1956 and this greatly helped his career.
- Angelo's wife was named Judy and at the time of the article, sons Randy and Lanny were ages eight and six, respectively.

Angelo has held a number of titles over the years including World Tag Team Titles in the Indianapolis, Indiana circuit with Nicoli Volkoff (not the current one) in 1964 with Leo "The Lion" Newman as manager and with Chris Markoff in 1966 with Bobby Heenan as manager.

Early in 1977, son Randy Poffo changed his ring name to Randy Savage. He and Lanny had been wrestling as the Poffos in the Carolinas, but to get started under the new name, Randy went to Georgia. A great "old" picture of Randy back when he was Poffo is included in the Sept. 1973

"Wrestling Monthly".



ANGELO POFFO



ANGELO POFFO

June 10, 1961

BEAUMONT, TEXAS

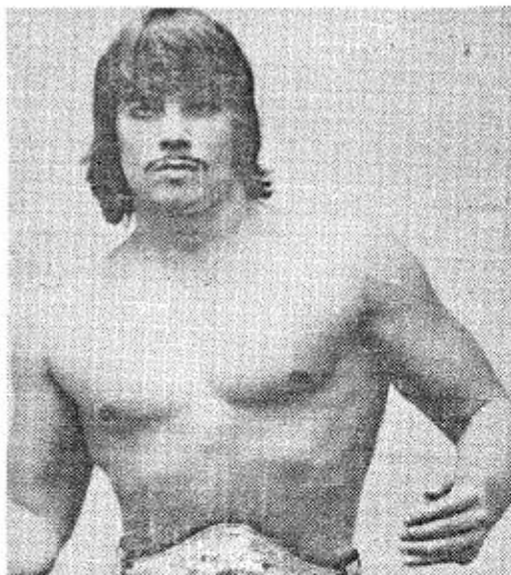
Poffo Is Still Feuding With The Promoter



Your promoter is not very smart in the opinion of Mr. Angelo "Poofy" Poffo. Last week Poffo was set back to a Preliminary match and one would think "Poofy" had been deliberately insulted. That was not the idea though I will admit it was a very good way to express your promoters opinion of his ability. And he was not raised to Main Event status this week because of his raving and ranting. He will get Main Events if and when in my opinion there is a spot for him. If and when there isn't a spot, he will be relegated to the Preliminaries and he can take it and like it or lump it and leave it. Trains, planes and buses are leaving Texas every hour. Anyhow maybe Iron Mike and Cyclops may solve that problem for us.



Lanny's father Angelo and older brother Randy were featured in earlier volumes of this series. All three were still active in 1979 and ran their own independent promotional group which instigated a federal anti-trust lawsuit against some of America's best-known promoters and wrestlers.



POFFO, LANNY

Write-up below is from Lanny's fan club, which began in 1979.

Lanny is better known in some circuits as Leaping Lanny. This is the name he used when he started out, rather than trying to live off his father Angelo Poffo's well-established name.

He will leap into your heart as he bounds across the ring in acrobatic splendor! He's wrestling's newest sensation, "Leaping Lanny", truly one of the greatest athletes around today. Lanny was born in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, on December 28, 1954.

Lanny is six foot two and weighs around two hundred and forty pounds.

He started his wrestling career in high school as an amateur wrestler at Downers Grove North High School in Downers Grove, Illinois. In 1973, Lanny became the Illinois state champion wrestler. Lanny then decided to turn professional. Lanny trained at the Hammond Park Y.M.C.A. and first wrestled professionally in Aurora, Illinois. Since then he has traveled throughout the world. Among the areas he's wrestled include: Tennessee, Alabama, Kentucky, Oregon, North Carolina, Canada, and many, many more places.

Lanny grew up in different areas of the U.S. Among the places he's lived are Illinois and Hawaii.

In Hawaii, he met and became good friends with Don Ross (Mr. America and Mr. World). Don has said many times that if Lanny had stayed with just body building, he himself may have become Mr. America.

Lanny is a master of the martial arts and superb acrobatist thus giving him the name, "Leaping Lanny". All of his fans who have seen him in the ring know what we mean.

His plans for the future include to relieve Harley Race of the World Championship belt, which we all know someday he will gain.

Listed among his favorites is prime rib for food, he prefers the color black and his preferences in music range from country to rock depending upon his mood.

Some of Lanny's hobbies when he's not lifting weights or wrestling, include songwriting and singing, which is a side of Lanny many of you don't know. In fact, last year he signed a recording contract with Teddy Bear records in Nashville, Tennessee. Who knows only time will tell, one of these days when you turn on your favorite radio station, that magnificent voice you may hear singing to you may be that of Lanny.

If the time comes when he must decide which career he truly wants to pursue be it wrestling or songwriting and singing.

We his fans will stand behind him one hundred per cent because to us Lanny is the one and only!



EYEING A CHAMPIONSHIP BELT, Bob Orton, Jr., will go against Ronnie Garvin in the main event of a five bout card to be featured Tuesday evening, February 17, at Paintsville High School. Orton and Garvin will wrestle in a Southeastern title match. Also featured is a tag team match pitting "The Devil's Duo" (Doug Vines and Jeff Sword) against George Weingeroff and Pistol Pez Whatley. Sponsored by the Paintsville Band Parents, the wrestling matches will get underway at 8 p.m.

ORTON, JR., BOB

This young man is easily one of the most popular villains of the 1970's. The fans might boo him at times, but they like him!

In the Aug. '74 "Wrestling Monthly", the following information on Orton, Jr. is offered:

- he was born in Kansas City, Kansas on November 10, 1950
- he won amateur wrestling state titles in both Kansas and Florida and was selected an All-American in 1968 and 1969
- his amateur record was 212 wins, 8 losses and 1 draw
- he received a scholarship to the University of Missouri and started out as a pre-dental major!
- his true name is given as Robert Keith Orton, Jr.
- he made his professional debut in Tampa, Florida in 1972
- he won "Rookie of the Year" award
- he and Mr. Wrestling II won the Georgia State T.T.C.
- his hobbies are golf and tennis
- he loves to fish, had a dog named Duke he took with him fishing
- he married a lovely young girl named Elaine
- he likes listening to his stereo
- he was listed as being 6'2-1/2", 205 pounds
- while he was in college, his father Bob, Sr. was wrestling under a mask as The Zodiac!

An article on Coach John Heath in the Jan. 1975 "Big Book of Wrestling" showed a photo of a very young Bob Orton, Jr. in referee's position with another then-amateur-later-professional wrestler, Mike Graham. (Editor's note: 'referee's position' is the placement amateur wrestlers take at the start of the second and third periods of amateur matches. This is mentioned here so no one gets confused and thinks Orton, Jr. was a referee in the photo; he and Graham were both amateur wrestlers!)

Bob, Sr. was featured in a story in the Dec. 1954 issue of "Boxing and Wrestling" which said Sr. was 23 at the time and had been married four years, and that Bob, Jr., then age 2, liked to watch his father wrestle on TV!

In the summer 1974 issue of "Wrestling World" is a story on Orton, Jr. which mentions two of his amateur coaches - pro wrestlers Eddie Graham and John Heath - also had sons in amateur wrestling. Story said Mike

Graham turned pro just a little before Orton, Jr. did.

January 22, 1974

TEXAS-DALLAS

Amazing Orton Back Next Week!

Relax, fans! Yes, Bob Orton, Jr. will be back next Tuesday and Matchmaker Ed Watt is deeply disappointed that Orton

couldn't be on the program tonight!

Orton, a lanky, youthful matman who looks like a teen age high school student is really a standout and recognized by all mat experts as one of the most exciting and capable wrestlers ever. He certainly earns his "Rookie Of The Year" award!

A pleasant part of last Tuesday's evening for Fritz Von Erich was watching Orton's bout. Fritz is as high in praise of the youth as anyone and Fritz feels no man in the ring could beat Orton in a "purely amateur rules collegiate match!" And that is saying a lot!

Orton will be back next Tuesday as above stated and hopefully on all the coming Tuesday cards!



BOB ORTON, JR.

In 1979, Orton, Jr. and Bob Roop held the Southeastern T.T.C. in the Knoxville, Tennessee circuit.

Orton, Jr. had great success in the A.W.A. in 1978. He started out the year as a hero but soon joined the Bobby Heenan "family" of villain wrestlers and was suspended from the A.W.A. around the end of the year.

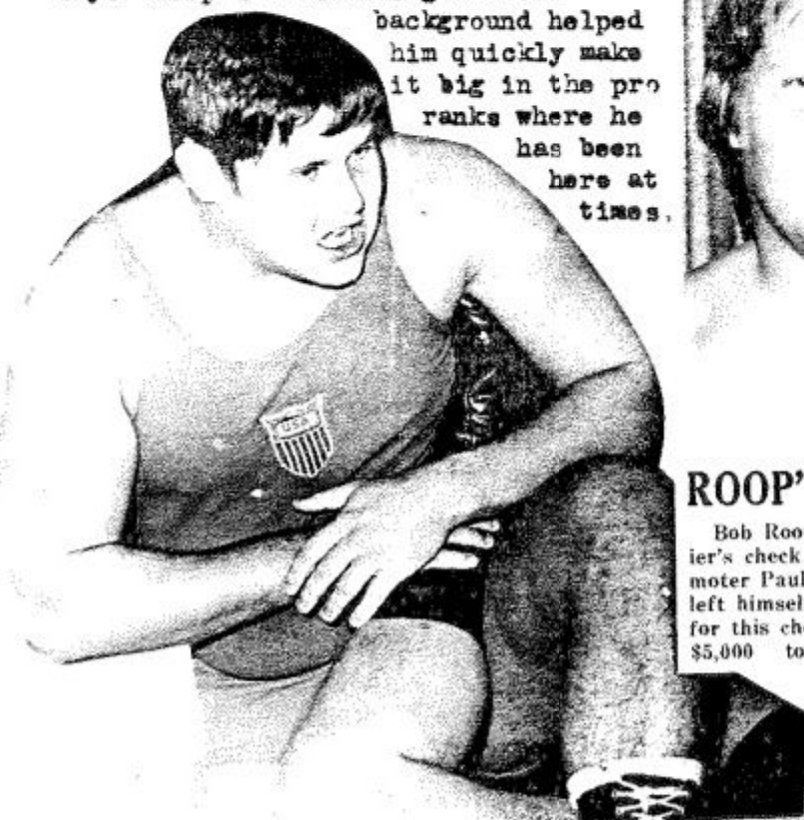
Bob, Jr. and his father were a successful tag team as Florida champs May 1976 when Jr. was State Champ in singles, too!



ROOP, BOB

Very active in 1979, making major headlines when he, Boris Malenko, Ronnie Garvin and Bob Orton, Jr. all broke away from the established promotion in Knoxville, Tennessee and formed their own rival opposition group, which continued to run on a very regular basis as 1980 got under way. Roop's outstanding amateur

background helped him quickly make it big in the pro ranks where he has been here at times.



MARCH 8, 1974

HOUSTON, TEXAS

BOB ROOP MAKES CLAIM TO BE WORLDWIDE TV CHAMPION!



Bob Roop made an impressive debut last week even though it was an unexpected entry into the ring to replace Bob Orton. He made short work of Dale Lewis and then, in quiet terms, he told television fans why he claims the title of worldwide TV champion. "I have never been beaten on television and I have wrestled before more fans than any wrestler in the world today. More than a hundred million in the Arabic countries, another hundred million in Asia. I have met all comers and beaten them, on TV or off. If I am not as well known in my own country it is because I have been travelling all over the world and I have never dodged a match. I have set attendance records and won my matches."

ROOP'S \$5,000 TO BE TV TARGET!

Bob Roop has posted a cashier's check for \$5,000 with promoter Paul Boesch. He has also left himself open to challengers for this check and will give the \$5,000 to any professional

wrestler who can beat him in a match on television, something that has never happened to him. As this program went to press Roop's challenger had not yet come forward.

villain at other times. His best finishing hold may be a shoulder-breaker. One of his top feuds of the 1970's was with Kevin Sullivan, and took place in California and Tennessee promotions.

March 12, 1974

DALLAS, TEXAS

Roop Ready With the Big Money!

It is indeed a brash offer for Bob Roop to offer \$5,000 to any licensed professional wrestler who can beat him in ten minutes time.

How many other mat stars

would do that? Not many, in fact, it's never been heard of before! And Roop is not a big, bragging, rough-grappling super heavyweight. He is a good looking, pleasant young man from Carbondale, Ill., a typical, mild middle west town.

But Roop believes in his own ability, as proved in college and the Olympics and in bouts in Europe and the middle east. And while he is recognized as a tremendous star there, he wants to get some recognition here—and that comes by big wins, hence the offer.

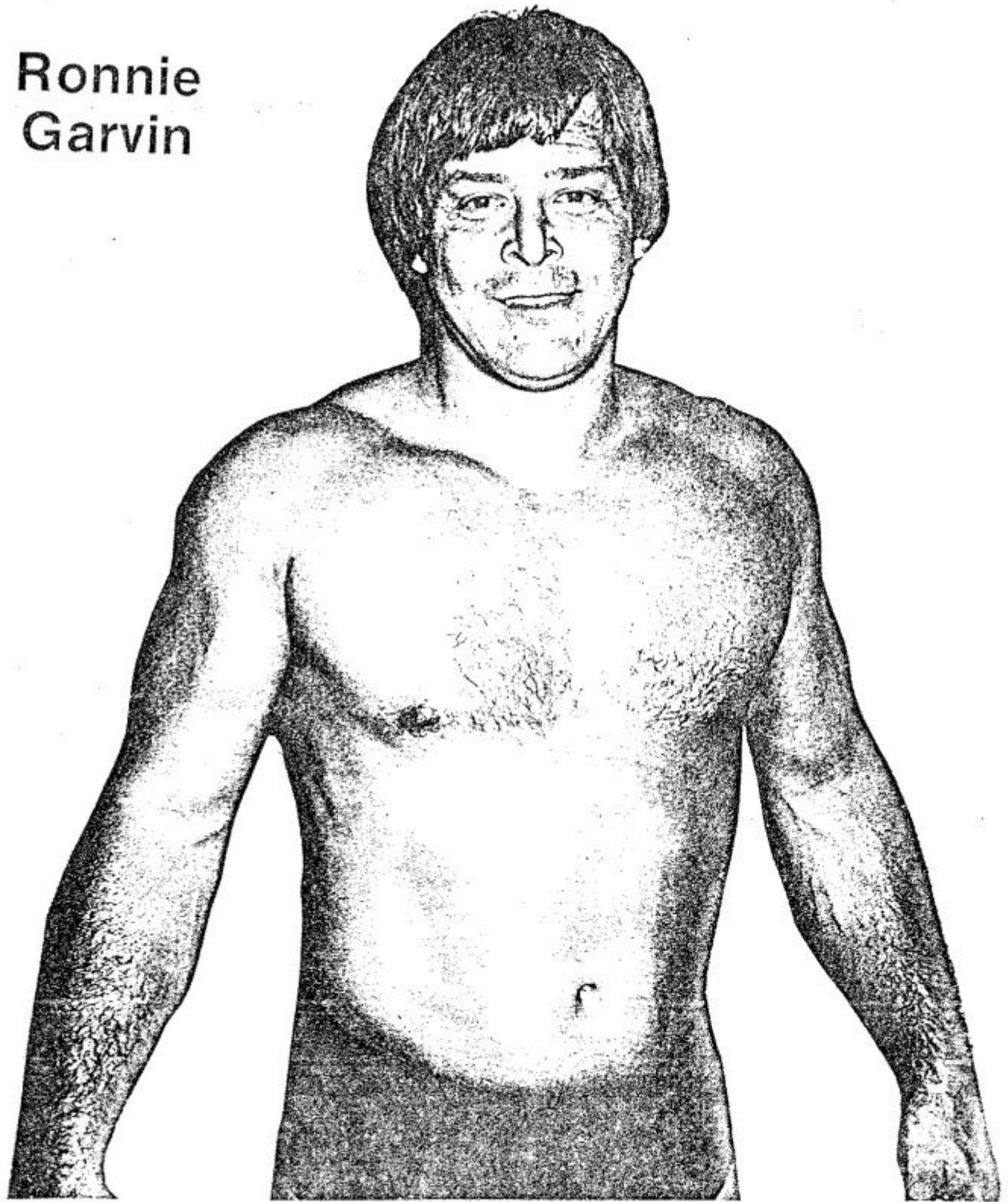
The bout isn't on TV tonight as per the offer but you can bet that if Leo Seitz pins Roop then Seitz will be challenging him to a TV bout very quickly!



BOB ROOP



Ronnie
Garvin



Ronnie is the middle in age of the Garvins with Terry the older brother and Jim the "baby" of the family.

Ronnie & Terry were World T.T.C. in Florida in 1966-67.



The Smooth Canadian



This Canadian has a reputation as a wild man in the ring. But in his private life a reputation for smoothness. So you won't catch him drinking anything less than the smoothest whiskey around.

Windsor. A whiskey made with glacier-fed spring water and aged in the clear, clean air of the Canadian Rockies.

Give Windsor. It's got a reputation for smoothness.

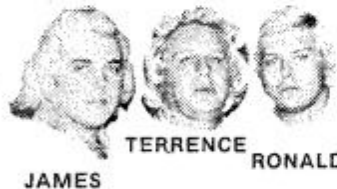


JIM TERRANCE & RON GARVIN

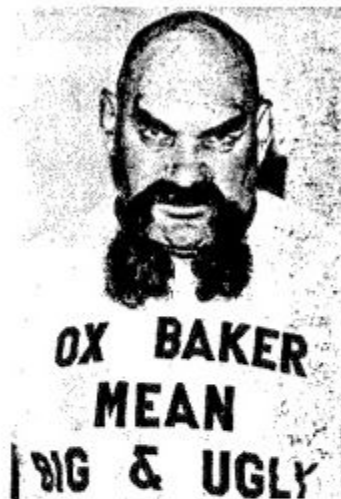
The whiskey ad at the top of this page is from a 1979 Knoxville, Tennessee program. Garvin was one of the Southeastern promotion's top stars at the time but later in the year split from that group (which was headed by Ron Fuller, aided by Les Thatcher) and joined

Bob Roop, Boris "The Great" Malenko, Bob Orton, Jr. and other top stars in a new opposition promotion.

In Knoxville, Ronnie often held the Southeast Title. He had switched from villain to hero. He was 1978 W.F.I.A. "Wrestler of the Year" and had a major feud with Malenko.



THE
GARVINS



**OX BAKER
MEAN
BIG & UGLY**



OX BAKER . . . He wins so often now that he has fought his way out of the clown class and everybody takes him seriously.

BAKER IS ANYTHING BUT A CLOWN NOW

They used to laugh when Ox Baker came into the ring but nobody takes this big guy as just another clown these days — especially his opponents.

He still looks like something out of Hayseed Corners but he has convinced one and all that there is a lot of danger in those 280 pounds. When Baker gets riled enough to put his squeeze hold on somebody, that somebody stays real squeezed. He has learned a lot since he began his



"Ox" Baker

BAKER, "OX"

This big wrestler got some unasked-for publicity when two of his opponents died following matches with him — Alberto Torres in 1971 and Ray Gunkel in 1972. Some magazines jumped at these chances to publish some tasteless sensationalism at Baker's expense. One of the more professional attitudes was exhibited by "Wrestling Revue" in its December '75 issue, a breath of fresh air in contrast to the trash written in some other publications. "Revue" gave Baker a chance to express his true feelings on the two deaths and Baker is shown to be a sensitive, realistic human being rather than a monstrous killer as some other sources had unfortunately chosen to portray him.

The June '70 "Wrestling Revue" also carried a story on Ox mentioning that he and Luke Brown had recently formed a duo known as the "Hero Team" and of course he was a hero early in his career (and at times even recently). The same article, incidentally, noted that his true first name is Doug.

A story in the Dec. '67 "Wrestling World" said The Ox made his pro debut in Nashville, Tennessee in 1963 going to a draw against a local villain whose name The Ox couldn't remember at the time.

"Wrestling News" in its Strangehold Edition No. 28 for Dec. 1974-Jan. 1975 listed Ox Baker as the World Heavyweight Champion of the W.W.A.

March 1977's "Wrestling Monthly" carried a feature on Baker which included some interesting photos of his then-15 year old son, Gary. There is a definite facial resemblance between the two of them. This article claims that Ox's real first name is Carl. The story also states:

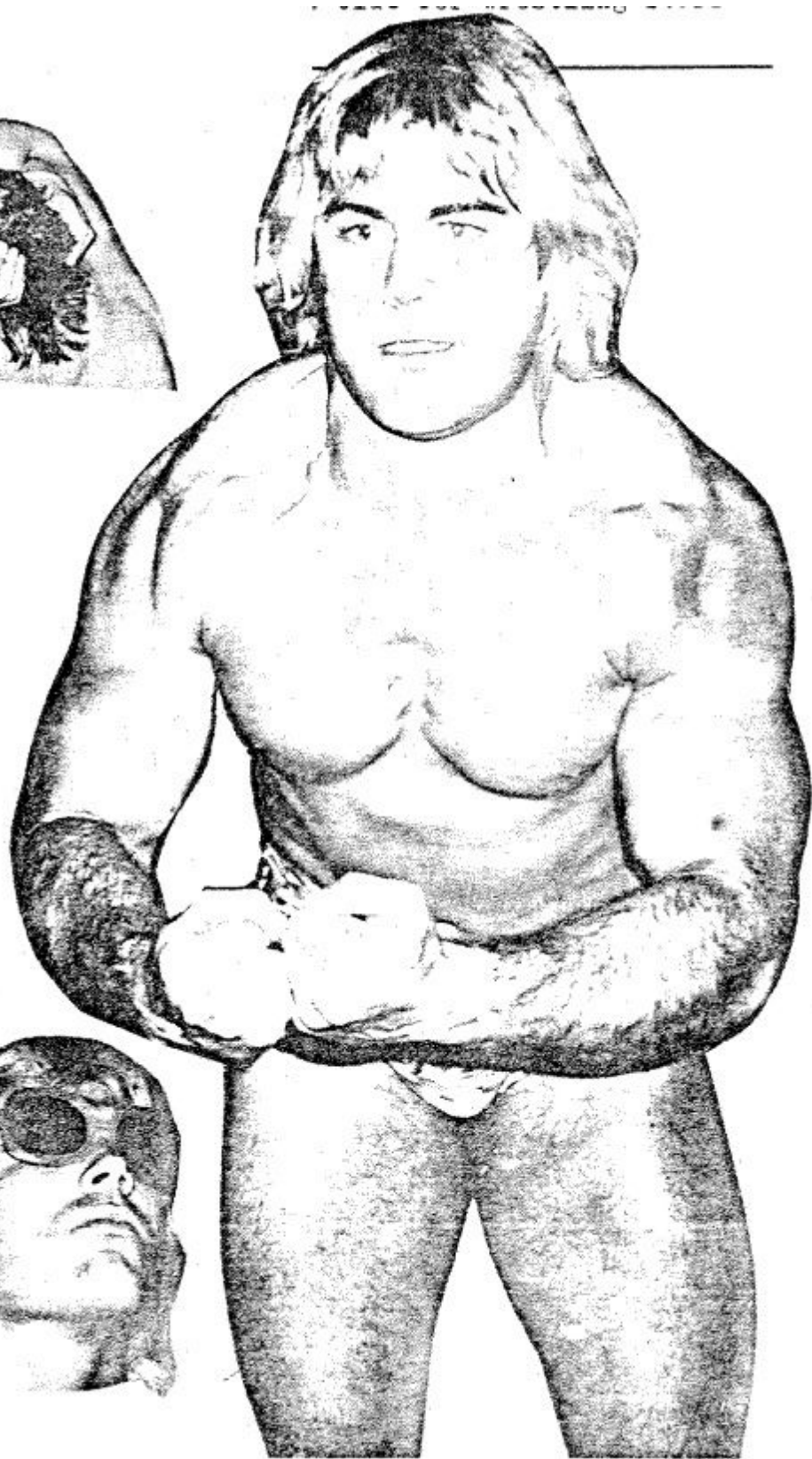
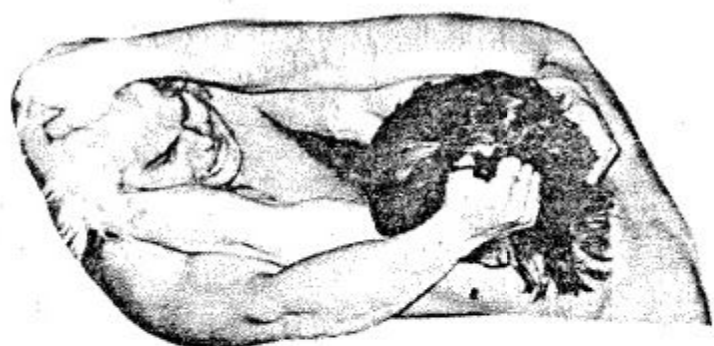
- Ox is a native of Waterloo, Iowa
- Gary is listed as being 6'4", 228 lbs.
- Gary was said to at that time be a sophomore at high school in Colecamp, Missouri
- Ox was listed as being the same height as his son but 72 pounds heavier!
- Gary was undecided as to whether to someday go into wrestling or boxing; in high school he was also active in football, basketball and baseball!

**Corpus Christi, Texas
Friday, October 28, 1966**

career here in Texas and with that knowledge added to his great strength he is a worthy opponent for any man.

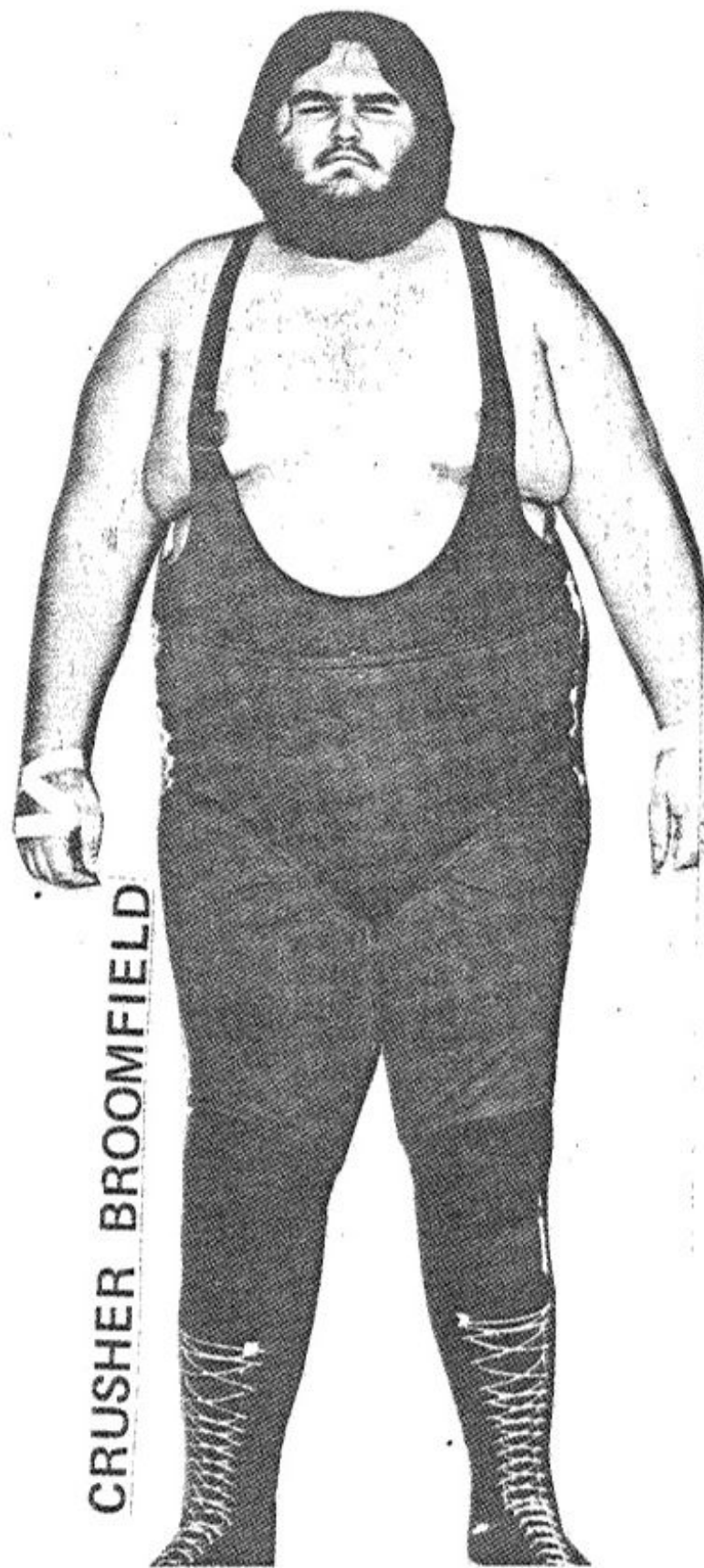
Because he learned wrestling here, Ox likes Texas and he hopes to hang around for a long time. That's good news for his fans.

One thing about Ox's ring performances in early 1979 was that although a villain in a number of cities, he was matched against villains and cheered in quite a few other cities including some places in East Texas and even St. Louis, Missouri!

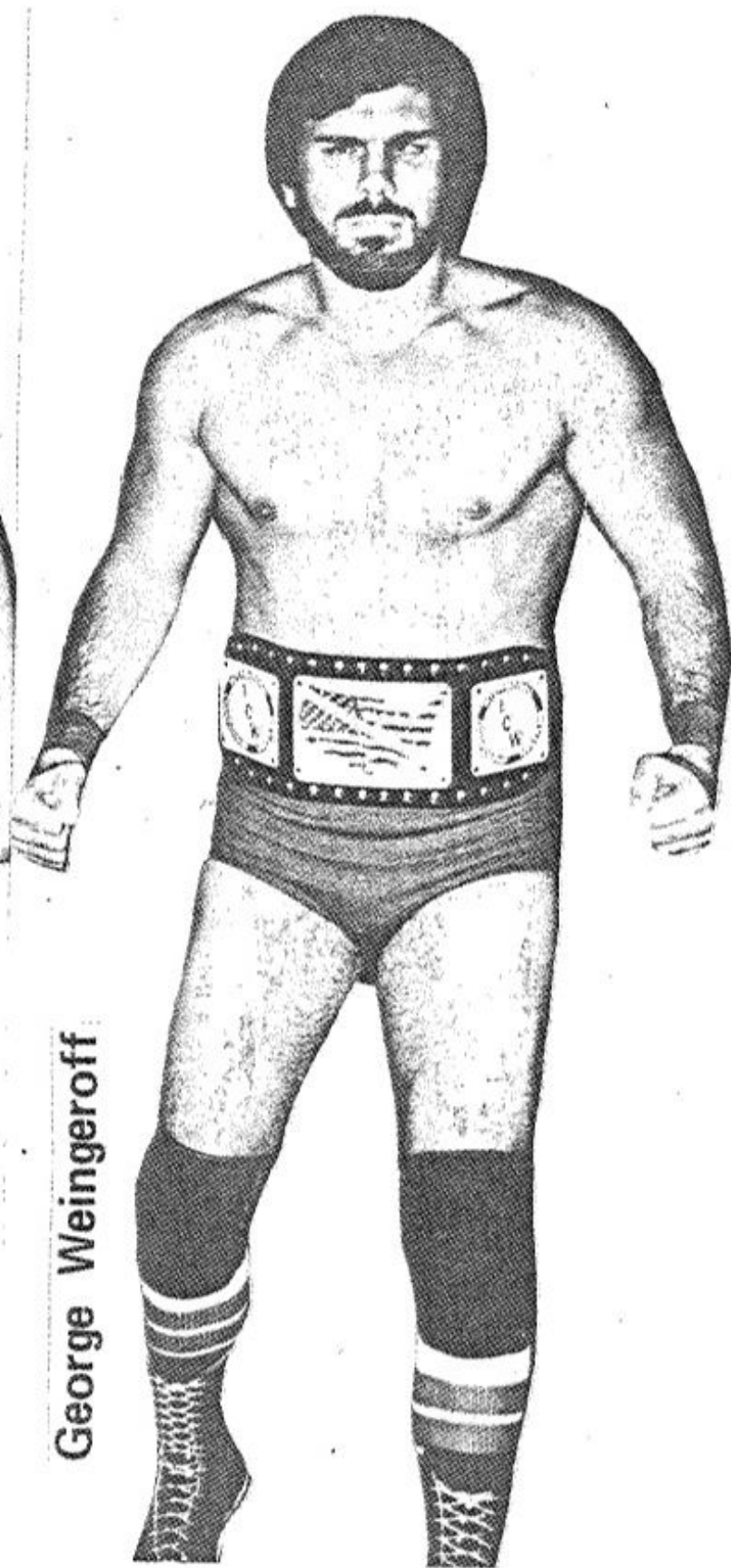




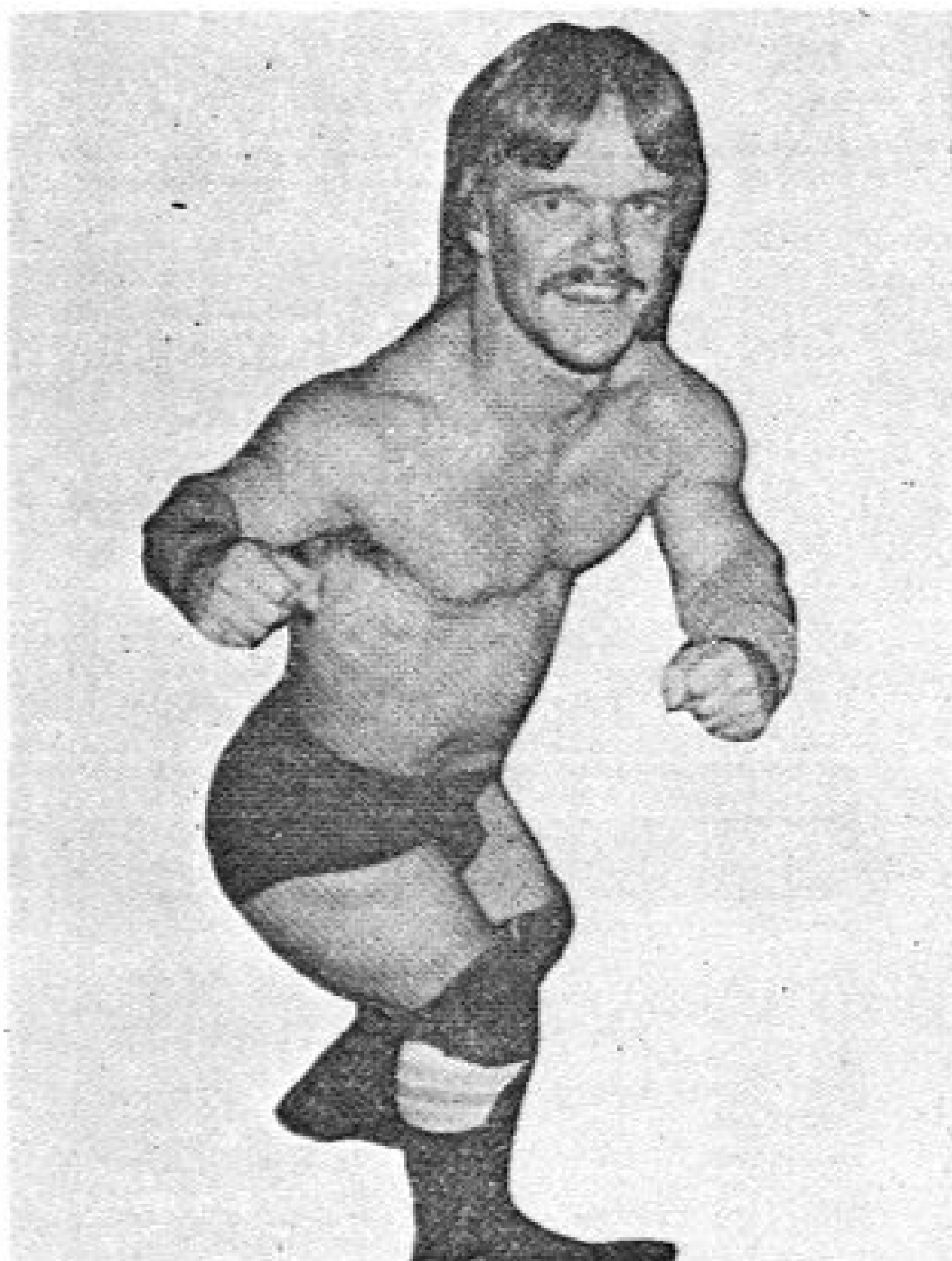
THE DEVIL'S DUO, Doug Vines and Jeff Sword, shown with their manager Izzy Slapawitz, will wrestle George Weingeroff and Pistol Pez Whatley in a tag team match at Paintsville High School on Tuesday, February 17. The five match wrestling card features a southeastern title match between Ronnie Garvin and Bob Orton, Jr. The wrestling card is being sponsored by the Paintsville Band Parents who may be contacted for ticket information.



CRUSHER BROOMFIELD



George Weingeroff



Wee Willie will be among the wrestlers appearing at the Olive Hill National Guard Armory on Thursday. Wee Willie will meet Cupid, Randy "Macho Man" Savage and Crusher Broomfield will face George Weingeroff and Big Boy Williams, Bob Orton, Jr. will defend his title against Pistol Pez Whatley, and the Black Avenger will take on Terry Harris. The matches begin at 8 p.m.

WEINGEROFF, "GENTLEMAN" SAUL

One of the best known managers in pro-wrestling history, in particular for his work with the German team of Kurt and Karl von Brauner.

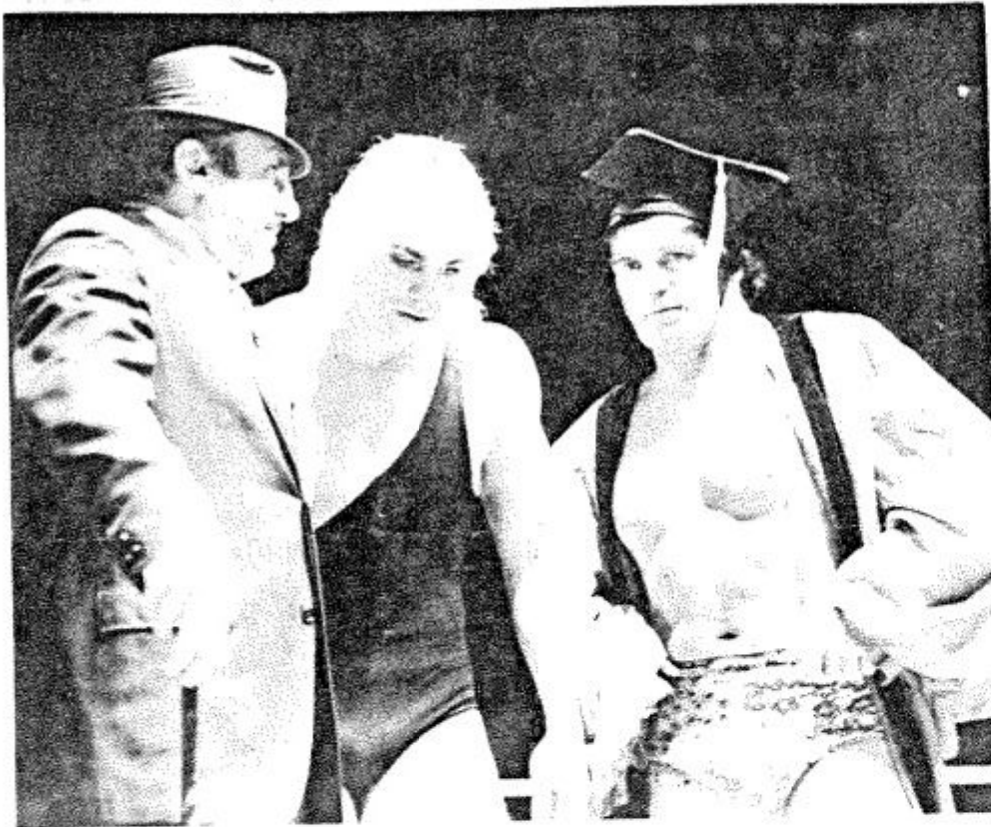
The March '68 "Wrestling Revue" carried a story on Saul which said he was a former middleweight boxer ... and that in wrestling, the first person he ever managed was a seasoned, scientific veteran that had his better days behind him because of his age but made a good comeback when he followed Saul's advice of becoming a rulebreaking "Masked Terror".

One of Weingeroff's trademarks over the years was his cane, often used illegally on his proteges' opponents.

An article in the Oct. '69 "Wrestling Revue" says Weingeroff took the masked team of Mephisto & Dante under his care and turned them into champions in just two weeks in Birmingham, Alabama.

Among the many cover stories done on Weingeroff in wrestling magazines was one in the February '71 "Wrestling Revue" where he explained it was his wise decision to have his Spoilers tag team remove the masks and wrestle under own names, Lorenzo Parente and Bobby Hart. Interesting side note is that drawings accompanying this article were

JANUARY 25, 1975 DETROIT, MICH.



done by mat star Jerry Lawler!

Saul was believed to be retired from pro wrestling at the time this volume was assembled (Spring '79) but the family name was being carried on by his son George, an active wrestler although legally blind!

Saul himself was said to be living and working (in another job) in the Nashville, Tennessee area in 1979.

THE POFFO'S . . . ARE OUT OF CHICAGO . . . BUT THE WORLD IS THEIR PLACE OF BUSINESS. MANAGED BY VETERAN MANAGER GENTLEMAN SAUL WEINGEROFF, THIS FATHER AND SON TEAM . . . HAS TRAVELED FAR AND ARE ON THE "MOST WANTED PROGRAM" BY WRESTLING PROMOTERS EVERYWHERE.

NWA INC. & ICW INC.
**PROFESSIONAL
WRESTLING
TONIGHT**

SUN., SEPT. 9—OWENSBORO SPORTSCENTER



LEAPIN' LANNY



RANDY SAVAGE

DOUBLE MAIN EVENT

"MACHO MAN"

**RANDY
SAVAGE**

VS.

"ONE MAN GANG"

**RONNIE
GARVIN**

10 Wrestlers around ring with straps to keep
wrestlers in ring.

SOUTHERN HEAVY WEIGHT TITLE MATCH

**LEAPIN'
LANNY**

(Challenger)

VS.

**BOB
ORTON, JR.**

(Champ)

MIX TAG TEAM MATCH

BOB ROUP & LANDY SATON

VS.

GEORGE WEINGEROFF & DEBBY COMBS

**14 MAN BLINDFOLD ROYAL
WITH \$500 SIDE PURSE**

**MASK
MIZER**

VS.

**RAJUL
GUSMAN**

SPECIAL CHALLENGE MATCH

BOB ROOP

(He will put up
\$7500 check)

VS.

JERRY LAWLER

Roop will bring \$7500 & all Lawler has to do is
show up, bring a chicken and beat Roop to win
money.

PHIL HEDDON

VS.

"DOOR KNOB NIXON"

Present coupon today at door
and receive \$2.00 off any seat.

ONE PERSON PER COUPON

RINGSIDE \$5.00 GENERAL \$4.00

CHILDREN \$3.00

Promoted by Nat'l Wrestling All Stars Inc. &
International Wrestling Inc.

International Championship Wrestling

**SOUTHSIDE JR. HIGH SCHOOL
HERRIN**

SATURDAY, APRIL 12 — 8 P.M.

MAIN EVENT

\$1000 Battle Royal
Over the top rope - last
man in the ring is the
winner

2nd MAIN EVENT

U.S. Tag Team Title Match
2 out of 3 Falls

**Leaping Lanny &
George Weingeroff
vs.
Black Avenger &
"Hustler" Rip Rogers**



LEAPING LANNY

Doug Vines vs. BoBo Murdock
The Miser vs. Pistol Peg Whately
Spiderman vs. Tenn. Stud

Ringside Seats

\$5.00

Children under 12

\$3.00

General Admission

\$4.00



FUN FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY

SPONSORED BY:

THE HERRIN LIONS CLUB

'Macho Man', Weingeroff Meet In An ICW Springfield Matchup

Randy "Macho Man" Savage and George Weingeroff will meet inside the ring during the first-annual International Championship Wrestling match set for Tuesday, Sept. 18 in Springfield, Tenn.

The Savage-Weingeroff match, the evening's feature bout, is scheduled to start at 8:15 inside the new Springfield Civic Center.

The night's second main event will find Bob Roop taking on Leaping Lanny, and Terry Gibbs challenging the Masked Miser.

ALSO ON the card is a match between 21-year-old Miss Debbie Coombs, a Nashvillian, and Miss Kay Roberts, a resident of Charlotte, NC. The two

women will face each other in a one-fall, 15-minute limit match.

Sam Hardy will take on Tom Heggs in the night's final match.

Tickets cost \$5 for ringside seats; \$4 general admission. Children under 12 get in for \$3.

Below:
Omaha,
Nebraska



Debbie Coombs
Female Wrestler

Wrestler Sues Rivals; Restraining Order Issued

A temporary restraining order has been issued against All-Star Championship Wrestling Inc. and four individuals after a rival wrestling promoter filed suit claiming the defendants are attempting to run him out of business.

Ron Welch, who wrestles under the name of Ron Fuller, and NWA Southeastern Wrestling Inc. filed the suit in Chancery Court here, claiming rivals to his company had behaved "in a disorderly and obnoxious manner" at NWA Southeastern matches in an attempt to force away customers.

Individuals named in the suit were Ronnie Garvin, Bob Orton Jr., Bob Roop and Ron Wright.

Welch said the defendants also had made defamatory statements about him and Southeastern Wrestling and had improperly used the trade name "Southeastern" in their wrestling activities. He asked damages not to exceed \$2.5 million.

Chancellor Len Broughton set a hearing on the restraining order for Oct. 18.



International Championship

WRESTLING

Thanksgiving Night — Nov. 27th

MEMPHIS, TENN. 8 P.M.

COOK CONVENTION CENTER

MAIN EVENT

TEXAS DEATH MATCH!

RANDY "MACHO MAN" SAVAGE

VS.

RONNIE GARVIN



SAVAGE

No Disqualification!

No Time Limit!

Falls Don't Count!



GARVIN

U.S. TAG TEAM TITLE MATCH!

LEAPING LANNY

THE DEVIL'S DUO

GEORGE WEINGEROFF VS. (JEFF SWORD & DOUG VINES)

(Champions)

W/Mgr. Izzy Slapovitz

BOB ORTON, JR. VS. BOB ROOP

\$100,000 CHALLENGE MATCH!

Bill Dundee 3 Randy
Jerry Jarrett VS. "Macho Man"
Tojo Yamamoto 1 Savage

All in the ring at the same time! Savage puts up \$100,000! Dundee, Jarrett, and Yamamoto have everything to gain and nothing to lose if they show up.

ALSO: "Pistol" Pez Whatley Vs Mighty Yankee
"Hustler" Rip Rogers Vs Ric McCord

All Ringsides \$5 General Admission \$4 Under 12 \$3

Advance Tickets on sale at:

TOP TICKET, 2405 Elvis Presley Blvd.

GOLDSMITH'S DOWNTOWN & OAK COURT

WATCH I.C.W. T.V. WRESTLING EVERY SAT. 10 A.M. ON WPTV CH. 24 MEMPHIS

Thanksgiving Card Set

Randy 'Macho Man' Savage takes on Ronnie Garvin in a Texas death match in the main event of a pro wrestling card Thursday night at the Cook Convention Center. The death match features no disqualification, no time limit and falls will not count.

Savage also will oppose Bill Dundee, Jerry Jarrett and Tojo Yamamoto in a three-against-one challenge match.

In other matches, Leaping Lanny and George Weingeroff defend their U.S. tag team title belt against the Devil's Duo — Doug Vines and Jeff Sword with manager Izzy Slapovitz. Also featured will be Bob Roop, Bob Orton Jr. and Pez Whatley.

Below: Malden, Missouri 11/1/80

Mighty Cupid and Wee Willie On Mat Card at Malden Arena

Coming to the Malden Arena Saturday night will be the world famous midgets, Mighty Cupid (85 pounds) and Wee Willie (87 pounds), both wearing boxing gloves. Mighty Cupid will team up with Doug Vines, 240 pounds and Wee Willie's partner will be 230-pound Rick McCord.

"Too many fans refuse to take the 'Battle of the Midgets' seriously," commented promoter Henry Rogers. "They dismiss the small grapplers' skill as antics, not the difficult

maneuvers of exceptional athletes. The midgets continually drive themselves to prove their dignity, but no matter how badly they maul each other, the fans refuse to believe they are actually hurting each other. This is as galling as it is unfair," he continued.

Also on this week's I.C.W. (International Championship Wrestling) card will be a tag team match held under street fight rules — no time limit, no disqualifications, referee outside the ring. Freddie Neal and

Cecil Hedge (500-lb. Bolo) will meet Slim the Hillbilly and the Assassinator in a four man tag match.

The third tag match will be a "Baby Bottle Match", so named because the loser of the last and deciding fall will have to suck milk from a baby bottle. Benny Wilson and the White African will meet Kenny and Ricky Shane in this match.

All seats will be \$4.00 at the door for adults and \$3.00 for children under 12 for this special card, one week only.



WEE WILLIE (left) and Mighty Cupid (right), world famous midget wrestlers will headline the I.C.W. mat card at the Malden Wrestling Arena Saturday night.

Above
Top r:

Wrestler Wants To Pin A Country Music Hit

Lanny Poffo says he's going to get a hammerlock on the country music business.

"I'm going to pin down a hit. You watch," the booming-voiced Poffo said.

Strong talk? A little strange?

Not really, because that's Leaping Lanny doing the talking. Leaping Lanny, the wrestler.

When he's not on the professional wrestling tour, Leaping Lanny's writing songs. He's composed about 100 of them.

Because he can't sing like a lark, he wants instead to become a country music narrator, or, as he puts it, "the Lorne Greene of country music."

"I can talk good," the leaping lyricist said. "I have a good, strong voice, just like Lorne Green."

Even though Leaping Lanny's a tough cookie, getting into the Nashville country music business hasn't been exactly like doing the cakewalk.

"I started wrestling in 1963 and three years later I began writing songs and poems," the 235-pounder said.

"While I was in Nashville, I bought a book on how to write songs written by Tom T. Hall. In a few months, I had written about 100.

"But I didn't have any clout in the business and couldn't get any of them published."

That caused Leaping Lanny, of Lexington, Ky., to form his own publishing company. He's already got a record out, a narrative about policemen.

Earlier this week, he performed at Faron Young's Celebrity Ballroom.

Being in country music doesn't mean Leaping Lanny's going to give up his wrestling career.

"I'm queer for wrestling. I'm in the ring five and six nights a week.



**Wax
Fax**

Bill Hance



LANNY POFFO
Has Written 100 songs

I'm not going to forego my first love for my second.

"But when I'm not in the ring or not working out, I'm writing. I'll continue to write because someday soon, I'll be in the music business full-time.

"But for right now, I'll punch in the ring and put out some hits on the side."



Ginger the Bear forced this challenger to evacuate the ring, even if it meant falling off the apron to the concrete floor. The wrestling animal was at the Paducah National

Guard Armory Friday night to tangle with six fans from the audience at the weekly professional wrestling card.

Staff Photo By BILLY DEW

No lady in the ring

750-pound Ginger the bear remains unbeaten in Paducah

By Billy Dew

Ever wrestled a bear? On purpose?

That challenge was issued Friday night at the National Guard Armory in Paducah as the weekly International Championship Wrestling program was held before a crowd of 300 that braved the worst snowstorm to hit the area this year.

All of their favorites and non-favorites were on hand. They cheered for Leaping Lanny and Pez Whatley and booed the rulebreaking antics of Randy 'Macho Man' Savage and 'Hustler' Rip Rogers.

But, for one night only, even those professional grapplers had to take second billing on the card.

The main attraction was a 750-pound Canadian female

named Ginger. A real, animal wrestling bear.

The rules were simple. Six volunteers, the most allowed by the humane society, were given two minutes each to tangle with Ginger in the ring. Each contestant had to be 18 years of age or older and also had to sign a release form stating the promoter or Rip Tyler, owner of the bear, would not be held

responsible for any bodily harm inflicted by the lady.

Tyler noted that Ginger has broken arms and legs in the past and also torn off fingers and arms.

A veterinarian in St. Louis put her to sleep and pulled her claws and front teeth out. Ginger's jaw teeth remained intact.

A professional wrestler

since 1958, the 48-year-old Tyler became interested in the animals after one of his matches 14 years ago.

"The promoter told me I was booked to wrestle bear," Tyler remembered. "I thought it was just another wrestler with that nickname. It was the real thing and he whipped me so bad, I went and got one."

Tyler has owned three bears since then. He got rid of his first one and the second bear was hit by a car and killed. He has had Ginger since she was a cub eight years ago.

"It takes about a year to train them," pointed out Tyler, "They bruised me up a lot, but when I like them, they know it."

With his bears, Tyler has traveled all over the world.

They just got back from a trip to Puerto Rico. He transports Ginger in a cage behind his station wagon that is approved by the Federal Government.

A native of Tulsa, Okla., Tyler now makes his home in Calhoun, Ga. He still dons the trunks and wrestles 25 to 30 times a year, but only in big cities.

"Ginger keeps me busy all the time," he explained. "We used to wrestle her six nights a week, but now it's about four times."

From Paducah, the pair has weekend engagements in Murfreesboro, Tenn. and Manchester. After two days

off, they travel to Ashland Wednesday night.

Tyler is guaranteed a certain sum for each appearance and said he makes a good living at his occupation. But, as both of them have found out in the past, the sport has its hazardous moments.

Tyler was wrestling in Tupelo, Miss., years ago when a crazed fan stabbed him in the stomach. His wound required 29 stitches and sidelined him for six months. Ginger was stabbed in the hip a year ago, while enjoying her post-match thirst-quincher, a Coca-Cola.

"That's what she wrestles for," smiled Tyler. "The drink is her reward."

Feeding Ginger can be plenty expensive. It costs from \$200-\$250 per week for her meals. One day she will

eat 20 pounds of fresh fish, a bushel of apples the next day and 20 pounds of hamburger the following day. The hamburger is provided once each week.

When in the ring, Tyler handles Ginger with a 10-foot long chain with a choker. He made good use of it a few times Friday night, when Ginger got the upper hand on several of her opponents.

"It's impossible to pin her," said Tyler of his wrestler. "You can get her down. Sometimes, she'll lay down and let you get on her. But, she's only tricking you then."

Of the six challengers, L. C. Edwards of Paducah came away the winner and received a trophy for his efforts.

A 38-year-old carpenter-

construction worker that was giving away 550 pounds to his female counterpart, Edwards had an advantage over the other five participants. He battled with Ginger two months ago in Drakesboro. That evening, all Edwards won was a bruised body that stayed sore for two weeks and, a rib that he thought was cracked.

This time around, he maneuvered from behind Ginger and was able to stay in command for most of the match. Edwards even had Ginger on her side for 20 to 30 seconds.

"It was just my ambition to whip a bear," Edwards said of his reason for stepping in the ring with the mammoth creature.

Also viewing the bout was Edward's wife, Wilmetta, and their five-year old daughter, Wilma Lee.

ghter, Wilma Lee.

"He's got more guts than sense," said Mrs. Edwards. "There's no use worrying, because nothing is going to stop him from trying once his mind is made up."

An expectant mother within a week, Mrs. Edwards is hoping the baby arrives before Friday night, when wrestling returns to the Armory.

"I'll bet 10 to 1 he'll be here at the wrestling matches whether the baby is born or not," she added.

As for Tyler and Ginger, the long line of one night stands continues, with new opponents waiting at each stop.

"There's always somebody to wrestle her," added Tyler. "I think they are pretty dumb to do it. People are funny and will try anything to win a trophy."

And some bears will do anything for a Coca-Cola.

Above: conclusion of Paducah, Kentucky article which began on preceding page. Refers to 2/8/80 card there.



• RANDY "MACHO MAN" Savage, right, I.C.W. world title holder, shown here with his manager Steve Cooper, will be one of the top TV wrestling stars coming to the Cape Arena Building June 6 for a night of mat action beginning at 8:30 p.m.

Lady wrestlers return to town

CAPE GIRARDEAU—Professional wrestling will return to Cape Girardeau June 6 at the Cape Arena Building with lady wrestlers and a I.C.W. world heavyweight championship bout highlighting the five match card.

The championship match, which is the main event of the evening, will feature world heavyweight champ Randy "Macho Man" Savage facing the challenge of former Olympic champion Bob Roop. Savage will be escorted to the ring by his manager, Steven Cooper.

Leaping Lanny takes on The Miser

in the semifinal in a two out of three falls challenge match. Lanny is co-holder of the U.S. tag team championship and is trying to get a return title match with Savage.

A mixed ladies and men's tag team match will feature Debbie Combs and Jim Pride against Lady Satan and the Masked Tennessee Stud.

Jeff Sword tests Pistol Pez Whatley in the 8:30 p.m. opener.

After all the bouts are over, all the wrestlers will return for the main event, an "Up the Pole Battle Royal" with \$1,000 going to the winner.

Tickets will be on sale at the door.

Pole-Climb Wrestling Feature

Professional wrestling returns to Paducah Saturday night at the National Guard Armory with a five-match card.

In the first main event, the wrestlers will be required to climb a 20-foot pole while fending off the opposition. At the top of the pole is to be a check for \$1,000 for the winner of the "battle royal."

In the second main event, a special challenge match will pit Pistol Pez Whatley against The Miser, with no time limit, no disqualification rules in effect. The winner of this bout will receive a title shot with the ICW heavyweight champion, Randy "Macho Man" Savage.

In tag team action, Jeff Sword and Jim Pride will team up to meet Doug Vines and the Masked Tennessee Stud.



Photo By GEORGE HILL

WRESTLERS—The Miser and Doug Vines, two of the ICW TV wrestling personalities who will be returning to Paducah on Saturday night for a 5-match card at the National Guard Armory.

Ric McCord will go against newcomer George McCreary, and there will be one additional match which will be announced at ringside. Wrestling gets underway at 8:30 p.m.

Pro Wrestling, Wedding On Bill At Armory

Four matches and a wedding will be the attractions when professional wrestling returns to Paducah this Saturday night.

The main event will be a rematch between The Miser and Pistol Pez Whatley. Promoters of the wrestling card state that the bout will settle a dispute between the two wrestlers. The loser will "have to leave town."

The U. S. Tag Team champions, Leaping Lanny and George Weingeroff will be returning after a three-month absence for a non-title

bout against The Alabama Pride, Doug Vines, and Turncoat Jeff Sword.

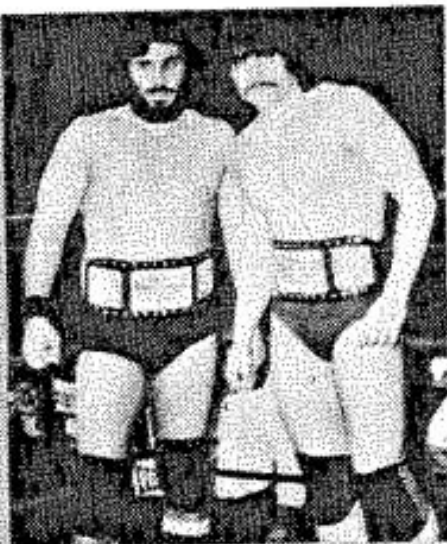
A special attraction will be a match between two midget wrestlers. Wee Willie, at 86 pounds, takes on Cupid who weights 83 pounds. An additional match will be announced at ringside.

A new referee has been assigned for the Saturday night events. The regular ICW chief referee will be married in the wrestling ring to a Paducah girl, Susan McKinney.

The evening program will get underway at 8:30 p.m.



INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING



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September							108
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RANDY SAVAGE

14-Man TV All-Star Card Saturday at Malden Arena

The new wrestling season for the year 1981 will open Saturday night with a 14-man T.V. all star card featuring the current I.C.W. World Heavyweight champion, Randy "Macho Man" Savage. Savage will defend his title when he goes up against the Rookie of the Year, Rick McCord.

The second event will be a match between Miss Debbie Combs and Miss Donna Day. "There's always action when the girls get into a hair-pulling contest," commented Promoter Henry Rogers.

Also, the Black Panther will defend his title for the American Heavyweight belt when he meets Tony Davis, in a Roman Gladiator

championship match with no time limits, no disqualifications, no stopping the match and no wrestler allowed to give up. The loser will be the man who is so helpless his opponent can drag him around the ring and tag each ringpost.

Two four-man tag matches also have been scheduled for this first match of the new year.

Tickets at the door will be \$4.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children under twelve years. All children under six accompanied by their parents will be admitted free. "The building is well heated," Rogers said, "and fans should come early for good seats."

Good vs. evil, two falls out of three

By JOHN WOESTENDIEK

Leader staff writer

Backstage, in the dressing room of The Bad Guys, Randy "Macho Man" Savage looks into the full-length mirror and flexes — not just a bicep or a tricep, but his entire body.

His eyes bulge to almost twice their size and veins protrude on his neck and forehead. Huge mounds pop out on his arms. His chest swells into a sinewy mountain range, straining the fabric of the T-shirt that tells the world what he already knows.

"Macho Man," says one side. "Better than the Best," says the other.

There are close to 3,000 professional wrestlers in the United States, and more than a dozen "world champions." Savage is one of them — the heavyweight champion of Lexington-based International Championship Wrestling.

And that's not good enough.

"I want to be the No. 1 wrestler in the world, man," he says while doing pushups, his eyes blazing. "I'll take on anybody."

Savage, 28, makes Muhammad Ali sound meek, Attila the Hun seem tender. His ring personality is wild, obnoxious, arrogant.

He spits in the faces of his opponents, and recently added "midget-crippling" to his list of foul deeds.

He's insulting. At a recent match, he accused various women of being fat, being ugly and having venereal disease.

"Shut up, you fat little punk," he cursed back at an overweight youth who was yelling at him.

The real Randy Savage (Poffo is his real last name) is a toned-down version of Macho Man. His voice is quieter, but just as gravelly.

He speaks more intelligently in private. His home in a southside Lexington suburb is sparsely furnished — the living room has a beanbag chair, mirrors lining the walls and weight-lifting equipment all over the floor.

Savage, who is single, spends up to five hours a day working out, he says. He shares the home with other wrestlers and a dog.

The son of a wrestler, Savage went from high school into minor league baseball in Florida. Four years later, in 1975, an injury — he collided with a catcher while sliding into home plate — resulted in his being cut from the team.

Wrestlers who had seen him brawl with a pitcher — that's how he got his nickname — asked him to try out. He did.

As a wrestler, he capitalized on the macho man image, his ring personality becoming a caricature of himself and sometimes spilling over into real life.

He was in a Nashville restaurant early one morning when a man walked in and announced, "Hey everybody, I just got married."

"Well who gives a big s—," Savage replied. A fight started. It took three policemen with clubs and mace and several bites from a police dog to subdue him.

He's not your typical wrestler.

Down the hall, in the dressing room of The Good Guys, Leaping Lanny Poffo, half brother of Randy Savage, sits on a table thinking good thoughts.

"I could never be a bad guy. I guess I'm too demure. I'd quit before I'd do all that stuff."

"I never got into street fights. I don't see how I could get into a fight because I never get into arguments. I'm not a tough guy."

Lanny is the heart-throb of little girls — big ones, too — who shyly line up for a kiss on the cheek, and the idol of little boys, who flock to his side for autographs.

Silky black hair evenly covers the top of a square-jawed face that exudes truth and honesty.

As half of the ICW world champion tag team, he plays it fair in the ring and is known for his acrobatic ability.

He was a high school wrestling champ whose first job was as a carnival brawler, taking on all challengers at \$5 a head. "They were usually pretty drunk by the time they came in the ring," he says.

"Wrestling gets in your blood," he says. "We're living out people's frustrations for the price of a ticket. It's a sick society."

He is clean-shaven, soft-spoken — and he gets upset about the violent aspects of the sport.

"I'm into loving my enemy — you can digest your food better."

He's not your typical wrestler.

Professional wrestlers aren't all carved from the same hulk-like mold.

There are nice ones and mean ones, married ones and single ones, quiet ones and loud ones, smart ones and dumb ones.

They come from everywhere. And though most have athletics in their background, they come from such diverse jobs as biology teacher, disc jockey, farmer and state legislator.

They have similar reasons for getting into professional wrestling — money.

For professional athletes in other sports, wrestling is sometimes a last resort — a place to cash in on your name when your body is too slow for a football field.

And younger athletes who can't make the big time in football, baseball or hockey often forsake the minor leagues for pro wrestling and its bigger paycheck.

For amateur wrestlers wanting to make a living with their skills, there's nowhere else to go — "so you join the whorehouse," as one pro wrestler put it.

Others in the sport don't have athletic backgrounds. A college self-defense class was the only training Memphis disc jockey Jerry Lawler had when he decided to become a wrestler. Now he's the top crowd attraction in his organization.

Potential fame, fortune and intrigue draw athletes and non-athletes to the sport

— men, women and midgets who give up security for an unpredictable career.

They join a circus-like occupation that leaves their heads sleepy from frequent road trips and their bodies battered from fighting up to four times a week.

They face both wrath and infatuation from fans. Fan attacks, sometimes with knives or bottles, are not uncommon. Neither are groupies — teen-age girls who wait around after a match for departing wrestlers.

Many find the money; top wrestlers — those with the proper blend of charisma and athletic ability — can make as much as \$200,000 a year. An average one will make about \$25,000.

Some fall victim to uncaring promoters — superior athletes can go unknown if they're not able to talk a good fight. The promoter makes and breaks careers in professional wrestling.

Almost all wrestlers live with aches and pain. A lifetime of three fights a week leaves bumps and bruises, cauliflower ears and protruding bones. No matter how phony the sport might be, wrestlers agree, it is rough.

And almost all agree on something else — it's worth it.

Tom Drake was an All-America football player at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga when he signed a contract with the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Then he was drafted to serve in Korea. When he returned in 1954 the Steelers' \$5,000 contract still stood, but a \$15,000 wrestling contract lured him away.

At 225 pounds, Drake still wrestles occasionally to stay in shape, though he has been busy with other jobs in recent years — 16 years in the Alabama House of Representatives, being former Gov. George Wallace's chief floor leader, an unsuccessful run for lieutenant governor in the last election and a planned run for state senate in the next.

"I'm not as fast and furious as I used to be," said Drake, who was a national coordinator for Wallace's presidential campaign, "but I can still jump six feet high and kick somebody in the face with both feet.

"The reason I wrestled? I just enjoyed it. It's a good way to stay in shape, and, yes, for the money."

Drake, 50, says he still bears the scars from his wrestling career.

"Many a time I've gone over the ropes — once all the way to the fourth row. I've got cauliflower ears and broken ribs.

"I used to have to go every

morning to get my ears drained. I've had my head cracked open and I have arthritis in my back."

Cauliflower ears are probably the most common ailment of professional wrestlers, followed by bad knees and bad backs.

Continuous pounding results in the breakdown of cartilage and the buildup of fluid in the ear, leaving a puffed-up knot on the side of the head.

"When an old wrestler gets thick cauliflower ears you can just flick them off with your finger — like knocking a fly off the wall," said Lanny Poffo.

A wrestler named Yukon Eric lost part of an ear during a match with Killer Kowalski, who now runs a wrestling school in Massachusetts.

There have been other injuries — even deaths — associated with wrestling. Ray Gunkel died of a heart attack minutes after a match. Haiti Jim died of an aneurysm during a fight.

Whether the deaths were directly related to the fights was never determined.

"Any professional athlete's life has a time limit on it," said wrestler Jerry Lawler. "You've got to face that someday it's going to be over. Some guys keep going in their 50s, some guys are washed up at 25.

"There are a lot of washed-up wrestlers, probably more than there are successful ones."

Lawler, 30, wears a goatee. His 1980 Lincoln Continental has 79,000 miles on it. He's put in as many miles, avoided as many groupies as any rock star around, and he's making good money.

When his wrestling career is over, Lawler, like most other wrestlers, plans to try to get into promoting — setting up matches, lining up wrestlers, making the money without taking the pounding.

Most wrestling promoters, like Dick "The Bruiser" Afflis in Indianapolis, are former wrestlers. Promotions are commonly family affairs, handed down from generation to generation.

Lawler's promoter, Jerry Jarrett, is an exception.

A former bicycle repairman, Jarrett started his own organization, eventually taking over what used to be Nick Gulas' Tennessee wrestling operation.

He was a wrestler until "it got to where I couldn't get out of bed the

day after a match." He got into promoting through his mother, who was a bookkeeper for Gulas.

"Anybody can go out and get six or eight guys and put tight on them and say he's a pro wrestling promoter," Jarrett said.

Good promoting, he said, involves more than that — getting arenas, finding charismatic wrestlers, publicizing rivalries, managing the books, knowing what will sell where.

A percentage of the money received at wrestling matches — 5 percent in Kentucky — goes to the state. Licenses must also be obtained for every city an organization wrestles in.

A wrestler's pay, also, is based on attendance — the winner getting a bigger percentage of the gate than the loser.

Angelo Poffo, promoter and president of International Championship Wrestling and a veteran wrestler, said some promoters cheat when counting the gate, enabling them to pay the state, and their wrestlers, less.

Many promoters exploit wrestlers, he says.

Poffo, who was mentioned in Ripley's Believe It or Not for doing 6,033 sit-ups in a row in 1945 — and who still wrestles under a mask as The Miser — says ICW wrestlers saw other promoters practicing nepotism, playing favorites and fixing fights.

"It's a prostitute-pimp relationship," said Randy Savage, still flexing in the bad guys' dressing room. "They (promoters) use you up and throw you away. You can go into a town, buy a house and become their slave."

As Macho Man talks — "Hustler" Rip Rogers comes in, retching. The bleached blond, one-time biology teacher heads straight for the toilet where he spends a full two minutes throwing up.

Rogers left teaching because it didn't pay enough. He ran a body-building gym in Indianapolis for a while and made contacts in the wrestling world. He became a weekend wrestler, later devoting full time to it.

Macho man continues to talk about his goals, punctuating his sentences with a finger on your sternum.

"I've got to do it now, man, while

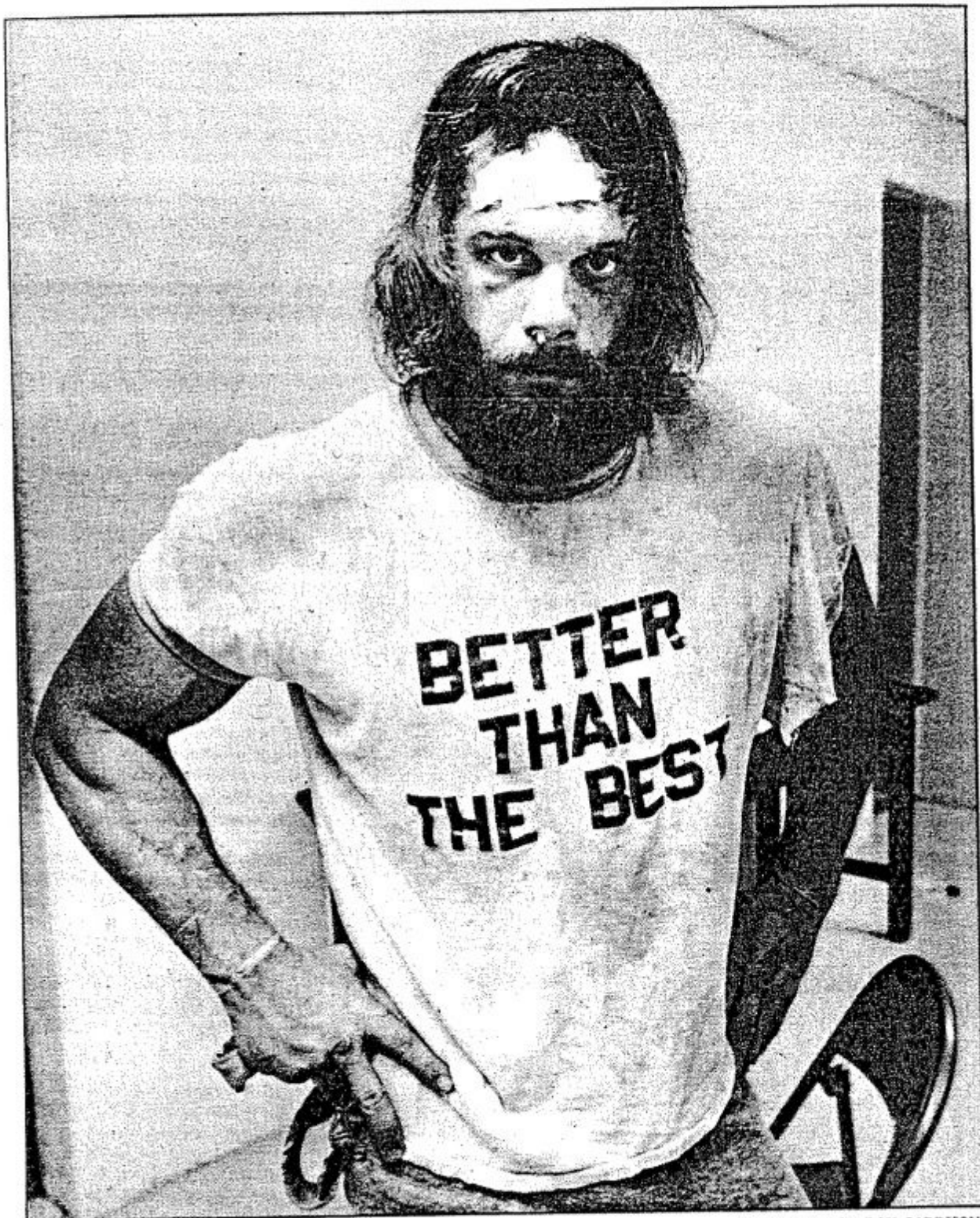
I'm in my prime," said Savage, who's offered another promoter \$100,000 if his three top fighters — all in the ring at once — could beat him.

"I tried to be the best in baseball and I didn't make it. I'm going to be the best in wrestling."

Savage flexes for a photographer as Rogers walks out of the bathroom

stall, his face pale and dripping with sweat.

Savage keeps talking about his dream and Rogers lies face down on the cold tile floor.



Lexington Leader/RON GARRISON

Means to an end: Randy 'Macho Man' Savage wears his heart on his chest

Wrestling's 'outcasts' are looking for respect, riches



Lexington Leader/RON GARRISON

Good guy George Weingeroff signs autographs

By JOHN WOESTENDIEK
Leader staff writer

Their tactics are unconventional, to say the least, but ICW wrestlers are determined to make the big time — and there are no holds barred.

Lexington-based International Championship Wrestling is considered an "outlaw" wrestling organization.

Its wrestlers, tired of being "held down" by other promoters, banded together and formed their own promotion.

Because of that, they say, other promoters have blacklisted them, passing the word among promoters not to hire them for matches.

But that's the least of their problems, says ICW president Angelo Poffo, who says he's determined to beat the odds against starting a new wrestling organization.

"Short of an accidental fatality, nothing is going to stop us," he said.

A bomb threat was phoned in at an ICW performance in Ashland in December, Poffo said. And the man who built ICW's wrestling ring claims he was called and told he would be killed if he finished building it.

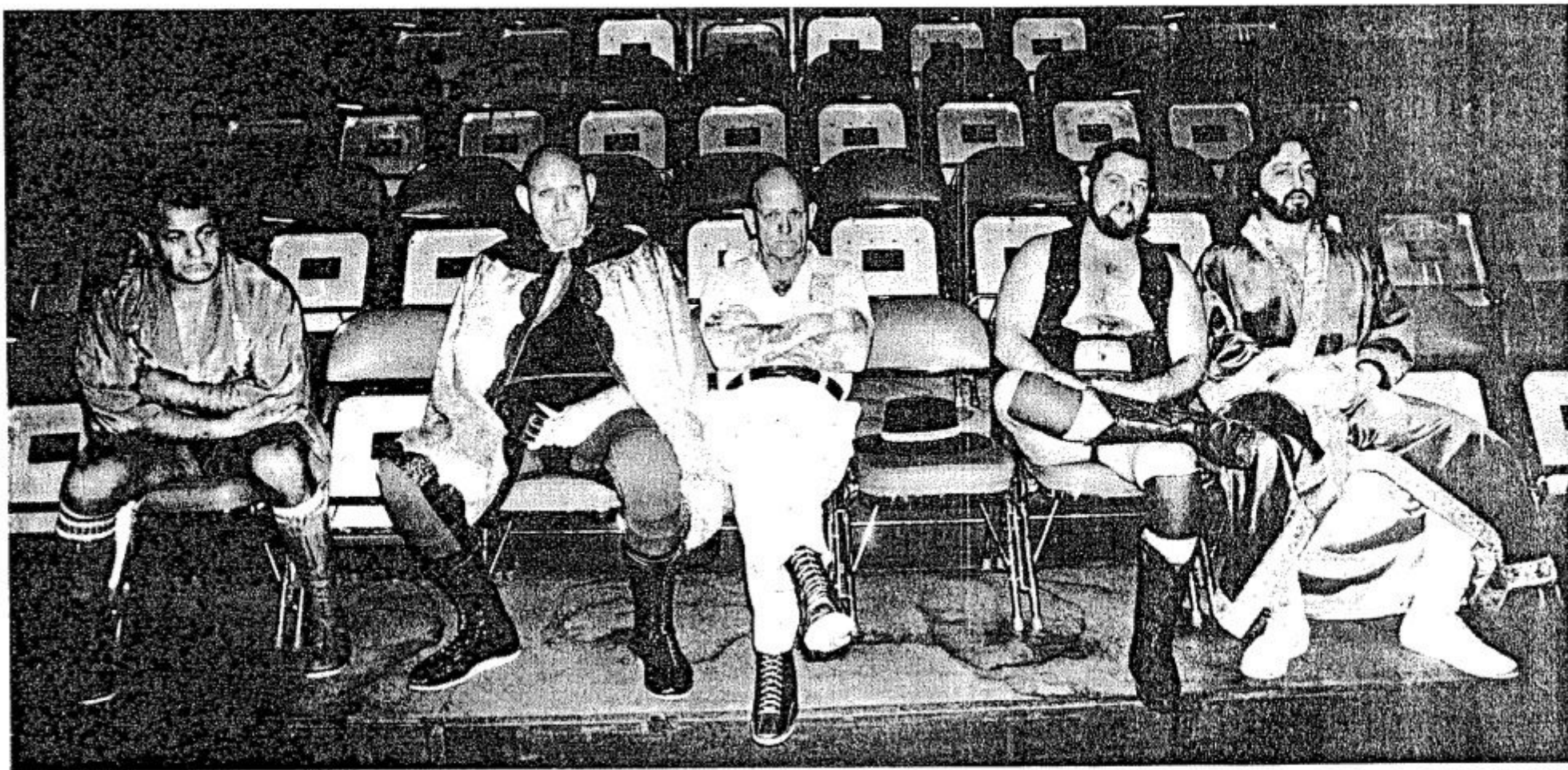
"It's like a Mafia," said Randy Savage, an ICW wrestler. "Wrestling is a monopoly. They (established promoters) get together in a room like this and divide up the country. They'll say 'this guy owns New York,' and nobody else is allowed in there."

Poffo and his two sons, Savage and Lanny Poffo, both wrestlers, filed a \$2.4 million anti-trust lawsuit last year against nine wrestling promoters charging they were monopolizing the business.

The case has yet to come to court. Meanwhile, ICW has been occupied with another problem — trying to get into Rupp Arena.

ICW wrestlers appear in more than 30 Kentucky towns, usually at high school gymnasiums or National Guard armories. Their hour-long TV show, taped at Channel 36 (WTVQ-TV) in Lexington and broadcast in about a dozen other cities, has been on for about a year and a half.

Rupp Arena, ICW wrestlers say, is the difference between making \$40,000 or \$4,000 in one night's work.



Lexington Leader/RON GARRISON

Waiting in the wings: Members of Jerry Jarrett's Championship Wrestling troupe await their turn in the ring

But more important, it's the big time.

"As long as we can't get into Rupp Arena, we're going to look small-time," says ICW heavyweight champ Savage.

"A couple of shots at Rupp Arena would be all it would take," agrees "Cowboy" Bob Ortin Jr.

ICW was allowed to wrestle in Rupp

Arena once last year. The turnout was about 2,500, a \$10,000 gate, according to ICW president Angelo Poffo.

They've tried to book the arena again — even resorted to televised slurs and accusations against arena officials — but haven't succeeded.

Tom Minter, executive director of the Lexington Civic Center, says there are two reasons ICW won't be allowed back in the arena.

First, another wrestling promoter already has a once-a-month contract with the arena. Lexington probably couldn't support two shows a month, he believes.

(Jerry Jarrett's wrestling organization, based in Tennessee, wrestles at Rupp Arena on the first or second Thursday of every month.)

Second, "ICW is not the type of organization we want to do business with," Minter says — especially since a smear

Please see ● OUTCASTS
Page 7, this section

*For the moment,
Ronnie Garvin gets
the best of 'Macho Man'*

● **'Outcasts'** **want riches and respect**

campaign was launched on ICW's Saturday television show.

Almost weekly, individual wrestlers complained about being barred from Rupp during segments of the show on Channel 36. Accusations were made that arena officials were "taking money under the table."

A complaint to the management of the TV station resulted in ICW retracting those remarks.

Another incident at Rupp involving ICW wrestlers resulted in the arrest of one of its managers, Steve Cooper, on a disorderly conduct charge.

A group of ICW wrestlers was outside the arena, waiting to "greet" the Tennessee wrestlers.

Some words were exchanged. Cooper was arrested and the other wrestlers were told they'd face a year in jail if they ever returned, they say.

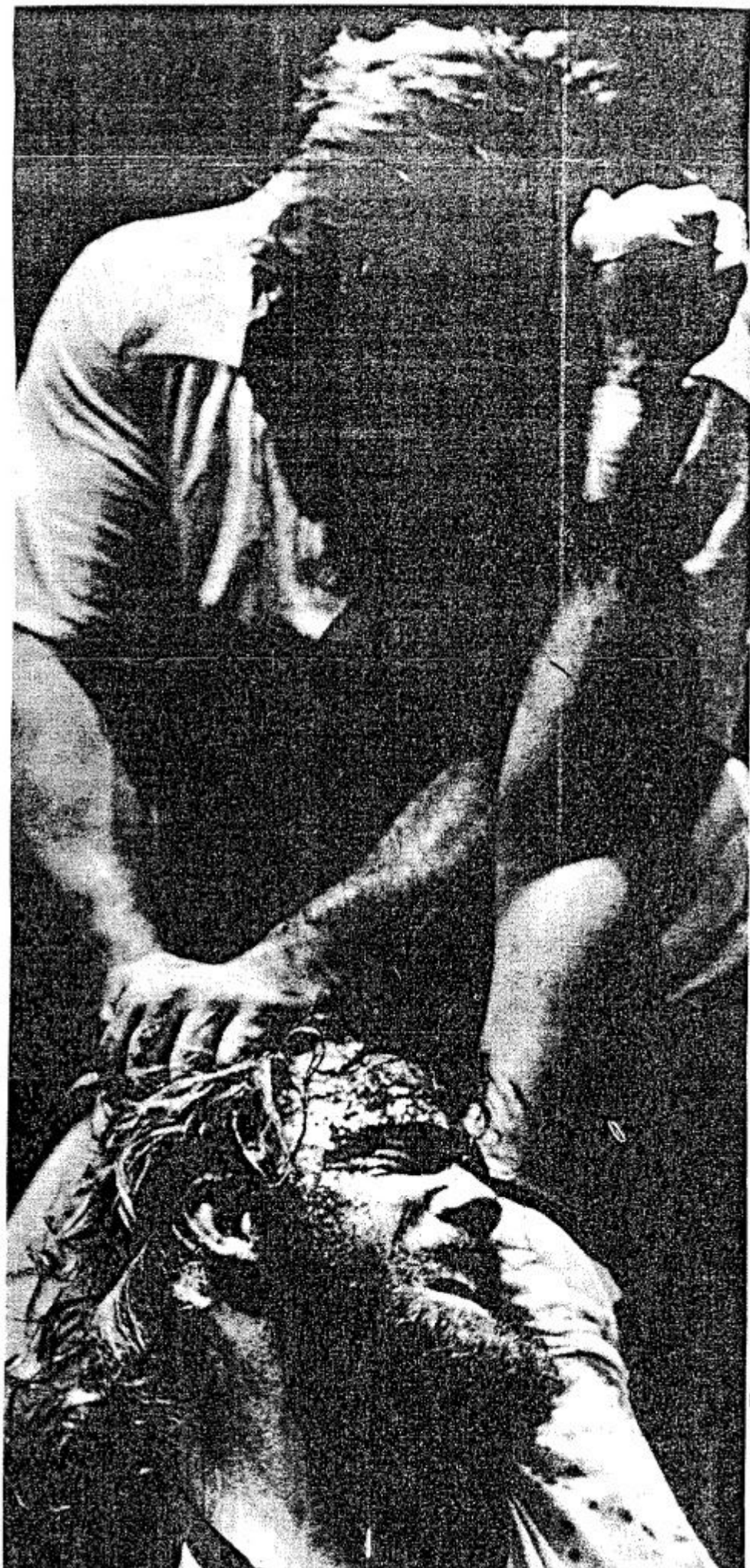
One wrestler says he plans to file a lawsuit against Rupp Arena for not letting ICW wrestlers perform there. Other wrestlers say being prohibited from appearing in Rupp should be illegal.

"It's like saying you can't open a pizza place on a street because there's already one there," said Savage. "Why force Kiss (a popular rock group) to play in somebody's garage if they could sell at the arena?"

And while ICW wrestlers have apparently found at least one place in Lexington to wrestle — they'll be at Henry Clay High School in April — it's still not good enough.

They deserve to be in the arena, they say.

"It's like you were the New York Yankees and you couldn't play in Yankee Stadium," said ICW wrestler Rip Rogers.





Lexington Leader/RON GARRISON

Jerry 'The King' Lawler is one of the luminaries of a game full of cauliflowers and kings

War and tease: The blood is real,

Living Today

Missing: One 95-pound professional wrestler

By JOHN WOESTENDIEK
Leader staff writer

Whatever happened to Wee Willie?

I don't know and nobody will tell me.

I saw him (A) killed, (B) crippled for life, (C) slightly injured, or (D) doing a marvelous acting job.

It was last month in the studios of Channel 36 (WTVQ-TV) during the taping of International Championship Wrestling. I saw it live, then again, two weeks later, on the weekly Saturday afternoon TV show.

And I'm still not sure. All I know is he's not wrestling here anymore, leaving ICW with one midget, which, to a wrestling promoter, is sort of like having one chopstick.

Al Farb, a brusque-talking bail bondsman in Indianapolis — that's where Willie's from originally — doesn't know either, and he's a friend of the family.

Al knows Willie hasn't turned up there. Al's got people keeping their eyes and ears open and promises to let me know if he shows up.

The state athletic commission, which is supposed to regulate professional wrestling and be informed when injuries occur, doesn't know what happened to Wee Willie — whose real name is William Smith, they say. No injury report was filed.

The Fayette County coroner's office saw no midgets that week, an amused spokesman said.

Channel 36 doesn't know. "I heard he was knocked out, but that's all I heard," a spokesman said.

I can tell you what happened to Wee Willie on that Wednesday morning, though.

Wee was acting as manager for wrestler Ronnie Garvin, who was in the ring against Doug Vines, half of the Devil's Duo.

Wee's top hat was all that was visible of him during the fight, as he stood behind

the ring in his wrestler's corner wearing a tuxedo and carrying a cane.

It was one of those fights that continues after it's over. As Garvin was throwing Vines out of the ring and onto the cement floor, Wee climbed up into the ring.

That was when Randy "Macho Man" Savage came into the studio. He climbed up on the ring's ropes — to the top one — jumped down and landed on Wee with his elbow.

Wee crumpled to the ground. Macho Man got up, climbed the ropes again and leaped on Wee a second time, landing with his elbow on the midget's throat.

Wee didn't move after that.

Macho Man did the same thing a third time for good measure.

Garvin, who'd been pummeling his opponent on the concrete during all this, jumped back into the ring. Macho Man fled and Garvin knelt by the motionless midget.

"S—. S—. Son of a bitch," Garvin said, his head in his hands.

Meanwhile, Macho Man walked out of the studio with his manager, Izzy Slapovitz, who was saying, "Haha, we killed the midget."

Ronnie eventually dragged Wee to the side of ring. "Does anybody know how to take a pulse?" he asked the audience. A woman came up to take his pulse.

"Call an ambulance, call an ambulance," said a kid almost in tears, one of several who had come ringside.

"He doesn't have a pulse," said the lady who was checking it.

"Man, somebody call an ambulance," another kid said.

"Ronnie, check behind his ear."

"Prop his legs up, Ronnie."

Bob Roop, a wrestler who was acting as announcer, spoke quietly into the microphone and still rolling cameras. "This is one of the most vicious things I've ever seen."

"Can we get a stretcher?" Ronnie asked.

The referee brought out a three-foot-long piece of plywood, but Garvin carried him off in his arms instead.

No ambulance came, and Wee Willie hasn't been seen by the wrestling public since.

When Garvin came out to talk to Roop on TV, he was almost crying. He blasted Macho Man "for pickin' on a 95-pound midget."

Later, Savage came out to the announcer's table, laughing.

"You're proud of crippling that midget?" Roop asked.

"Yeah," Savage said.

Since that Wednesday I've been told different things about what happened to Wee Willie.

✓ He is paralyzed from the shoulders down, according to an ICW referee.

✓ He was unconscious, broke a rib or two, but is okay now and living in Indianapolis. (Farb, you'll remember, says he's not in Indy.)

✓ He was hurt badly enough to retire from wrestling permanently, according to Leaping Lanny, who suggested he go into a less dangerous line of work, like Ice Capades.

✓ He plans to return to ICW wrestling and is just taking a break.

I don't know which, if any, of those is true. I don't even know if he was hurt or not — and that's kind of scary.

In any case, the demise/injury/performance of Wee Willie filled up more than 30 minutes of ICW's TV show.

ICW, at its live shows across the state, is still selling Wee Willie's photograph.

Fans are being told different stories, further clouding wrestling's fuzzy, zig-zagging line between reality and fantasy.

And me, I've concluded Wee Willie's injuries weren't too serious.

I think.

the thunder hollow

By JOHN WOESTENDIEK
Leader staff writer

The Lexington Leader, Lexington, Ky., Tuesday, March 3, 1981 D-7

The blood was streaming from the foreheads of both wrestlers, splattering on the wrestling mat, the concrete floor and the timekeeper's table.

Frankfort housewife Sue Tutt wasn't falling for it for a minute.

After the match, she dipped her index finger in a blood puddle on the table. She held it up to the light, rubbed it between her fingers, held it up to her nose and sniffed it.

"It's not real," she pronounced. "This is just a big hype. If it were real, they wouldn't allow people to do that."

This fierce night of International Championship Wrestling at Frankfort's Capital Plaza and Convention Center — or any professional wrestling performance, for that matter — was it only make believe?

Yes. And no.

The blood that streamed down the faces of wrestlers Randy Savage and Ronnie Garvin was human blood, according to an analysis performed for *The Leader* by a local hospital.

And it did come from their bodies — the wounds continued to bleed even after both men got out of the shower after the match.

A second sample, from Jimmy Hart, a National Wrestling Alliance wrestler who bled in Rupp Arena, also was human blood, the hospital tests showed.

But were the wounds inflicted in the ring? Frequently, they are not.

All it takes is a tiny nick on the forehead with a razor blade — maybe an inch long — in the dressing room minutes before the match.

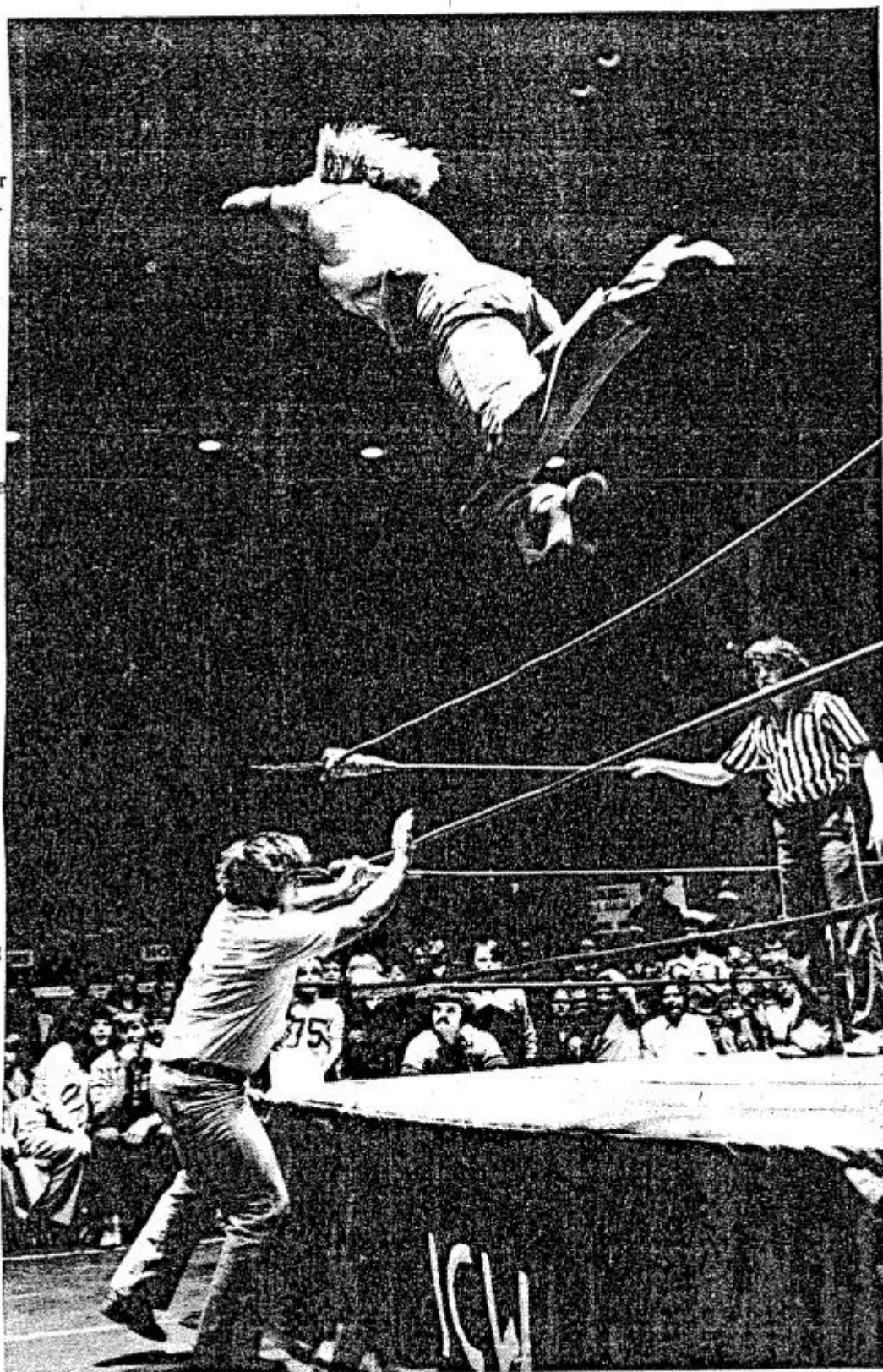
A couple dabs of coagulant will seal the cut, and during the walk to the wrestling ring, nobody will notice it.

Then one little fist grind — not even a punch — will open it up. The blood will flow for minutes.

It'll excite the crowd, convince most spectators that the two guys in the ring mean business and earn the bleeder a little something extra in his paycheck.

Almost all wrestlers will deny that — even the big bleeders in the game who have thin red scars criss-crossing their foreheads like country highways on a road map.

Few will admit to the shenanigans that have been documented in various exposes of the sport. Even retired wrestlers are hesitant to disclose the top-secret gimmicks of wrestling.



Lexington Leader/RON GARRISON

The sky ('Macho Man' Savage) is about to fall on Ronnie Garvin

● War and tease come with greatest of ease

"Sure, there's showmanship," they'll say. But ask them what action in the ring is real and what is fake and you'll get an angry answer.

"I've never pulled a punch as long as I've wrestled and nobody's going to stand in front of me and tell me I did," said Debbie Combs, a 21-year-old woman wrestler who followed in the foot stomps of her mother, Cora Combs.

"If anybody tells me it's fake. I'll challenge them in a minute," echoed the mother, now retired and running a flower shop in Nashville.

And, Cora said, she's got the broken ribs and cauliflower ear to prove it, not to mention a collarbone "that still sticks up about an inch."

"The majority of it is real," says Dale Mann, a southern Kentucky wrestler, promoter and candidate for sheriff.

"When you spend a lot of time working out, then you go in the ring and get banged up and people come up and tell you that, it kinda hurts your feelings. It's not as phony as everybody thinks."

In interviews with more than a dozen wrestlers, only a few said they were ever told to lose a match — and that was rare, they said.

"But usually you know whether you're supposed to win or lose," one wrestler said, "or it'll be such a mismatch that the promoter knows what will happen."

Most wrestlers, though, insist they don't know how a fight will end when they go into the ring. The best man may play around with his opponent, but he'll win, they say.

While the amount of phoniness will vary from promotion to promotion, wrestlers are schooled in deception, or showmanship, depending on your point of view.

At professional wrestling schools across the country, wrestlers learn the dramatics and the tricks, like how to throw a person over your head, or how to land when you're being thrown over somebody's head.

Wrestling rings are built for sound. A space is left between layers of plywood, allowing them to slap together loudly and also partially cushion a wrestler's fall.

Punches are pulled, kicks hit their mark carefully and more lightly than they appear to. There is an unspoken agreement between wrestlers — let's not seriously hurt

each other, we have to do this again tomorrow night.

Eye gouges are usually phony, as are face rakes — when one wrestler rakes his fingernails across the other's face.

Rivalries are almost always planned, even rehearsed. And most of the anger displayed by wrestlers is posed, some admit.

"They are actors," said Fletcher Carr, wrestling coach at the University of Kentucky. "All you have to do is go up and down the lines of what they're really doing."

They are not things you would do to pin a man — which is what wrestling is — or was — all about.

"There are no body slams in real wrestling. And the way they push off somebody who's trying to pin them by bumping their stomach, that can't be done."

"We're pretty much against what they're doing. It brings down the image of real wrestling. But I guess they have to make a living."

It's showmanship, professional wrestlers respond — a little colorful icing on an otherwise dull cake.

"For me to tell you that wrestling is absolutely legitimate is ridiculous," admits Jerry Jarrett, a Nashville wrestling promoter.

"There's a fine balance here. Is Muhammad Ali phony if he carries a guy for six rounds. Would you consider that a fix? When you knock out a person in the first round you won't sell as many tickets to the next fight," Jarrett said.

Jarrett, who retired as a wrestler two years ago, continued.

"When I go into a ring to wrestle a guy, I have my business mastered to the point that I can tell the degree of his ability. Do I grab and cradle him and beat him in 12 seconds or do I have an exciting match?"

"And does the fact that I didn't beat him in a few seconds make me a phony? Or does it make me a good athlete with a flair for making money? I don't know, honestly. It depends on your perspective."

"I've got four children and they've come up and asked me the same question. The answer is honestly and truly there is no answer."

"Is there a Santa Claus? My answer is there is — in the hearts and mind of everybody who believes there is."

Pro Wrestling Is Coming To Wayne City Friday

Friday night the crowd that gathers in the Wayne City High School gym will see such holds as the reverse neck breaker, the figure-four leg lock, and body slams.

We're referring to International Championship wrestling that will be held in the Wayne City gym, Friday, May 22 (tomorrow) beginning at 8:30 p.m.

Main Event

The main event of the evening will be a U.S. Tag Team Title match with the Devil's Duo, Doug Vines and Jeff Sword along with their manager Izzy Slapawitz, facing the U.S. Champs Leaping Lanny and George Weingeroff.

Vying to keep his Southeastern heavyweight title will be Bob Orton, Jr., as he will take on the rough and tough Ronnie Garvin.

Garvin has said that he will



THE MISER

THE MISER, a fierce-looking wrestler who intimidates the crowds, as well as his opponents, will be one of the wrestlers coming to Wayne City Friday night.

destroy Orton in the ring and will make hamburger of him in front of all the Wayne City fans.

Other Matches

Other matches include The Miser, who will tangle with Bob Roop and Tony Falk will go to grips with the Spider Man.

Tickets are now on sale at the First National Bank of Wayne City and the prices are:
Ringside—\$5.00.

General Admission—\$4.00.
Children Under 12—\$3.00.

Tickets may also be purchased from John Rinesmith, Al Beasley, or Leroy Simpson.

Tickets are available at the door the night of the matches.

Seen On TV

International Championship Wrestling can be seen on WSIL-TV, Channel 3, Harrisburg, every week.

This page, next one and bottom left corner of one after that: single feature from Nashville, Tennessee 6/21/81



—Staff photo by J.T. Phillips

Like mother like daughter—Cora Combs, right, helps daughter Debbie with one of the costumes she wears in the wrestling ring. Cora, Nashville's first female wrestler, retired last year after 30 years in the profession. Debbie, known in the ring as "Cora's Shadow," is following in her mom's footsteps.

Daughter Debbie Enters Ring as 'Cora's Shadow'

TWENTY-two-year-old Debbie Combs has hands which are considered deadly weapons.

At 5-foot-6, Debbie is 138 pounds of well-packed muscle. She presses 110 pounds, and when she steps into the ring her opponent, man or woman, is in for a fight.

In women's wrestling circles Debbie has become "Cora's Shadow." She's the daughter of Cora Combs, Nashville's first female wrestler who retired last year as U.S. Champion in the National Wrestling Alliance after 30 years in the business.

"**EVERYBODY SAYS** she's me in the ring when I was her age," Cora says.

Debbie admits the resemblance to her mother is more than physical. Her wrestling style—the holds and counter-holds—are her mother's. She also inherited the quickness her mother used to compensate for being smaller than many of her opponents.

Debbie began wrestling five years ago at the age of 17 when she was asked to fill in for a woman at a match in Louisville, Ky.

"I got pinned in a minute," she recalls. But the bug had bitten; she went into serious training, and now wrestles regularly, usually in Kentucky or Illinois, for International Championship Wrestling based in Lexington, Ky.

ACTUALLY DEBBIE'S training had begun informally years before when as a child she accompanied her famous mother to matches.

While Cora was in the ring, the male wrestlers tended young Debbie. Debbie's older brother Charles David stayed at home with his father Chester Szostecki.

When Cora began the wrestling career which took her to 14 foreign countries and throughout the U.S., female wrestlers were considered novelties.

They're still the ring's "special attractions," says Debbie. She and her mother say they take special "pride in ourselves when we walk into a ring."

Their shiny reinforced swimsuits under brightly sequined capes or fitted jackets are made to match by Cora's sister.

WHEN CORA entered a Columbus, Ohio, school for female wrestlers as a 20-year-old waitress she had no idea she would make a lifetime career out of it.

Friends had dared the young Cora to challenge Dot Dodson, then U.S. Champion, during a match at Nashville's old Hippodrome. A promoter got in on it and encouraged Cora to enroll in the Ohio school. She postponed her bout with Dot for a year, until after training, but still lost.

Wrestling was a sport she loved, recalls Cora, but at first it was mainly "an opportunity to see the world and get paid for doing it."

Over 30 years of regular matches, except for four years time off to have two children, Cora smashed a collarbone and suffered innumerable cuts and bruises, but always did her best to beat her opponent.

"You're always afraid," says Cora. "I always got butterflies. You never know if you're going to walk out of it like you walk in."

But the roar of the crowd and fans clamoring for autographs kept drawing her back. Now, after a year of retirement, Cora re-

fuses to go to matches as a spectator.

"You can't just say 'I quit,'" she says. "You want to get back in there."

UNLIKE HER mother, Debbie doesn't plan to make a career out of wrestling because it's "very hard on a woman." Maybe she'll be an airline stewardess, she says, or a cruise director, both jobs which involve meeting people.

The loneliness of living on the road out of a suitcase from match to match hurts almost as much as the physical pain.

"I love it so much it takes all the pain away—you don't think about it in the ring," says Debbie, who's been knocked out a couple of times and still suffers from a lower back injury.

"I'm serious about the sport because I love it," she adds. "There are so many things about wrestling people don't understand. They misjudge the sport...You're taking a chance every time you get into the ring."

BOTH CORA and Debbie are offended when others call their type of wrestling "faked."

The two women are hams, but not fakes, they insist. "There's showmanship to everything you do," says Debbie, "but showmanship doesn't mean fake."

Wrestling used to be more profitable for women than it is now, according to Cora, who says the money now lies abroad, especially in Japan. In foreign countries the house usually is sold out and wrestlers get a percentage, but in the U.S., says Cora, salary varies greatly in each city.

(Turn to page 19-E)



Debbie Combs, bottom, uses the Japanese Bridge hold on her opponent. Like her mother Cora Combs, Debbie says she uses speed and tricky holds to outwit larger wrestlers.

Daughter Debbie. . .

(Continued from 1-E)

Today's rewards are in the glamour of the ring. "The best part of it is having your hand raised [as winner]," says Debbie. "I love the spotlight."

As far as her personal life the single young woman says men "think it's a challenge" when they learn she's a wrestler, but they must be somewhat intimidated. "They don't make a pass at me,"

she adds. "I have to make a pass at them."

When she's not on the road Debbie keeps in shape jogging and working out at an area health spa. She also helps her mother sell flowers along the roadside on weekends—Cora's newest vocation. It lacks the glory of the ring, according to Cora, but "it's a way you can meet people."

—by VICKIE KILGORE EAST

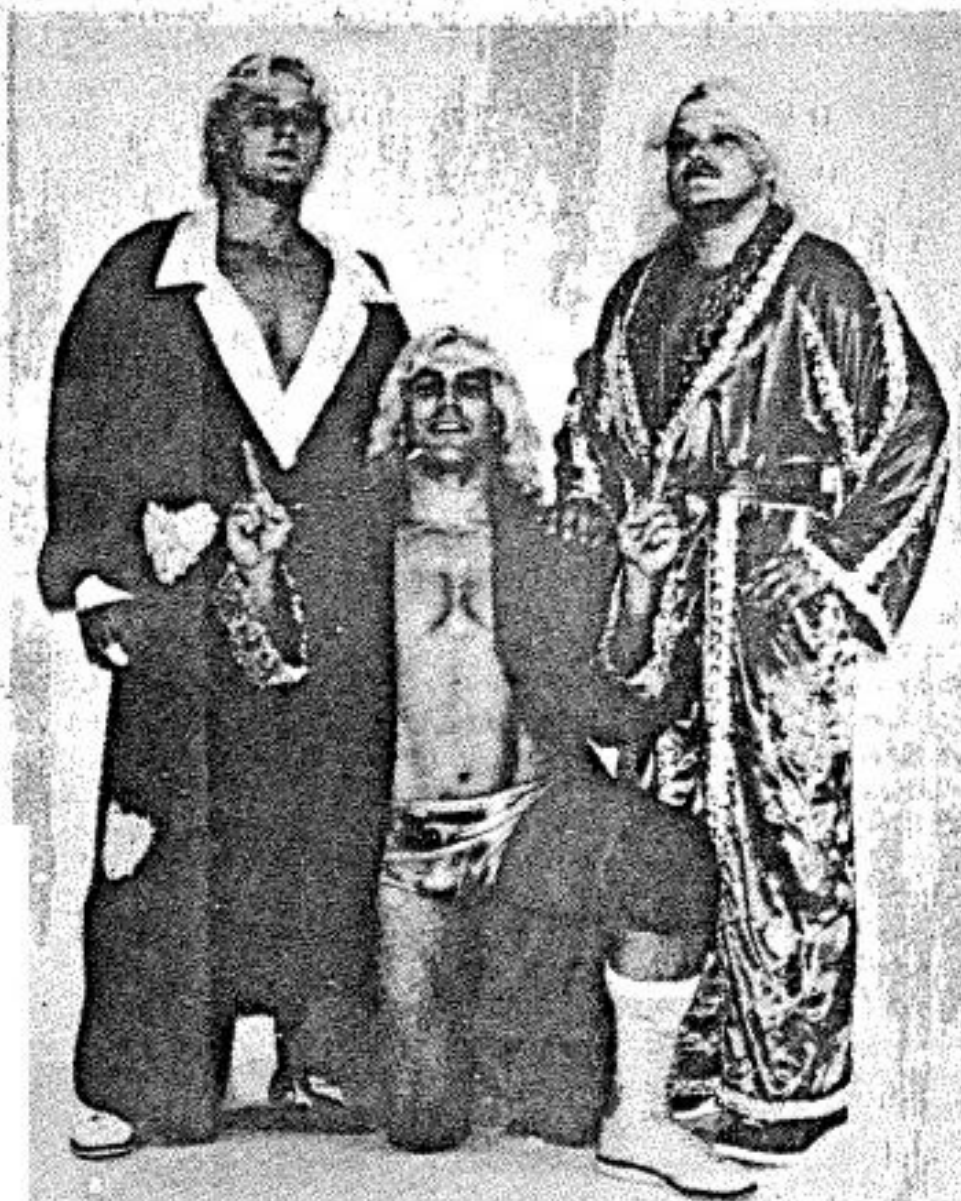
Crab Orchard High School Alumni to sponsor Championship Wrestling

On September 25, at 8:30 p.m. at the Crab Orchard School Gym the Alumni Association will present International Championship Wrestling the main event- Tag team match- The Convertible Blonds, Hustler Rip Roger and Gary Royal vs. Apache Lou and Chief Tapu.

TV Title match-The Great Trip vs. Rick Zarta. Steve Cooper vs. Jim Lancaster. Ron Strunk vs. Ric Starr.

All ringside seats \$5.00, general admission adult \$4.00, general admission for children under 12, \$3.00.

ICW T.V. Wrestling every Saturday afternoon 1:30-2:30 p.m. on Channel 36.



"THE CONVERTIBLE BLONDES"

Ric Starr - "Hustler" Rip Rogers - Gary Royal



WRESTLING

Sunday, October 25, 1981

Henry Clay High School

Lexington, Kentucky

Sponsor:

Henry Clay High School
Football Boosters Club

Reserve tickets for next month's wrestling tonight at box office during intermission.

WARNING!!

Several people have been injured by thrown objects. Wrestling fans are cautioned to stay away from the ring and the wrestlers at all times. Violators will be ejected from the building and barred!

**FREE
WRESTLING
MATCHES**
Every Other
Thursday 8:45 a.m.
at The Studios
of WTVQ, Ch. 36
Lexington, Ky.

Next Taping Date: Nov. 5



Tonight's Card



Main Event

Crusher's Contract VS Residence

Randy "Macho Man" Savage VS Ronnie Garvin

(If Garvin wins, he gets Crusher's Contract, if Savage wins, Garvin must leave the I.C.W. forever.)

U.S. Tag Team Title Match

Leaping Lanny VS The Convertible
George Weingeroff VS Blonds
(Champions) (Challengers)

T.V. Title Match

The Great Tio VS Crusher Broomfield
(Champion) (Challenger)

Rick Zarta VS "Bad Pistol" Pez Whatley

Chief Tapu VS Ric Starr

We reserve the right to change the order of events. International Championship Wrestling, Inc. and the promoter are not responsible if contestants fail to appear in the ring due to conditions beyond our control, such as illness, injuries, accidents, travel conditions, weather conditions, etc. When possible, substitute matches will be made.

In This Corner:

Tonight's main event cost Ronnie Garvin \$25,000, which he paid to Randy Savage for this match, and a chance to win the contract Savage has on Crusher Broomfield. However, if Garvin loses (and he did the last time they met, June 18th), we will never see Ronnie again, as he must leave the I.C.W.

The co-feature tonight has Leaping Lanny and George Weingeroff defending their U.S. Tag Title against the Convertible Blonds. From past experience, Lanny and George realize they will have to contend with 3 men, not just 2.

A second title match has The Great Tio putting his T.V. title on the line against Crusher Broomfield. Crusher will have more than the belt on his mind. He has a score to settle with Tio. It was Tio and Pez Whatley who jumped him here at Henry Clay last month and more recently on T.V. opening a large cut.

Frankfort Spectacular

Frankfort, Ky. will host one of the biggest wrestling cards ever, Nov. 4th. So big in fact that P.M. Magazine as well as the I.C.W. camera will film the action. And to celebrate one year in the Sports Center, a \$1.00 off all general admission tickets only coupon will appear in the Frankfort State Journal newspaper Nov. 1st, 2nd & 4th.

World Title Rematch!

By order of the I.C.W. Randy Savage will defend his belt against the challenge of former champ Leaping Lanny in a special 1 fall match. Lanny won the 1st fall here September 23rd. During the 2nd fall Lanny was thrown over the top rope, injured and counted out. The 3rd fall had Savage pinning Lanny who was virtually unable to wrestle. Lanny has fully recovered and feels he can regain the World Title in a 1 fall match Nov. 4th.

ERNIE LADD IS COMING!!



6' 9"
330 lb.

VS



6' 10"
454 lb.

Ernie Ladd, All-Pro Lineman for the Kansas City Chiefs, Houston Oilers, and San Diego Chargers is coming to the I.C.W. Ladd is a former North American Heavyweight Champion, and has held many other titles including the Georgia T.V. Title, one half of the Georgia Tag Team Title, and the Southern Hwt. Title. Ladd is being brought into this area by "Pistol" Pez Whatley to "teach" Crusher Broomfield a lesson. Ladd will have that opportunity in Frankfort, November 4th. However, Ladd will be facing one of the few men in Pro Wrestling who is bigger than he is!

FRANKFORT, KY. Capital Plaza Sports Center **WED. Nov. 4th 8 pm**

Watch I.C.W. T.V. Wrestling every Saturday at 1:30 p.m. on WDRB, Ch. 41, Louisville, Kentucky and every Sunday at 4:00 p.m. on WTVQ, Ch. 36, Lexington, Kentucky.

Norris City Banner

VOLUME 8 NUMBER 8 NORRIS CITY, IL 62869 WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 21, 1981 20¢ per copy

Championship wrestling Oct. 23

International championship wrestling will once again be a weekend highlight in Norris City.

Sponsored by the Norris City Lions Club, the four matches plus special attraction will be held in the Grade School gym at 8:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 23.

The first match will feature the Miser versus Bill Martin followed by Gary Royal versus color-

ful Apache Lou. Prior to the main event Rick Starr will face Ric Zarta.

The evening's main feature is the U.S. Tag Team Title Match when Leaping Lanny and George Weingeroff lay their championship belts "on the line" and are pit 1 against

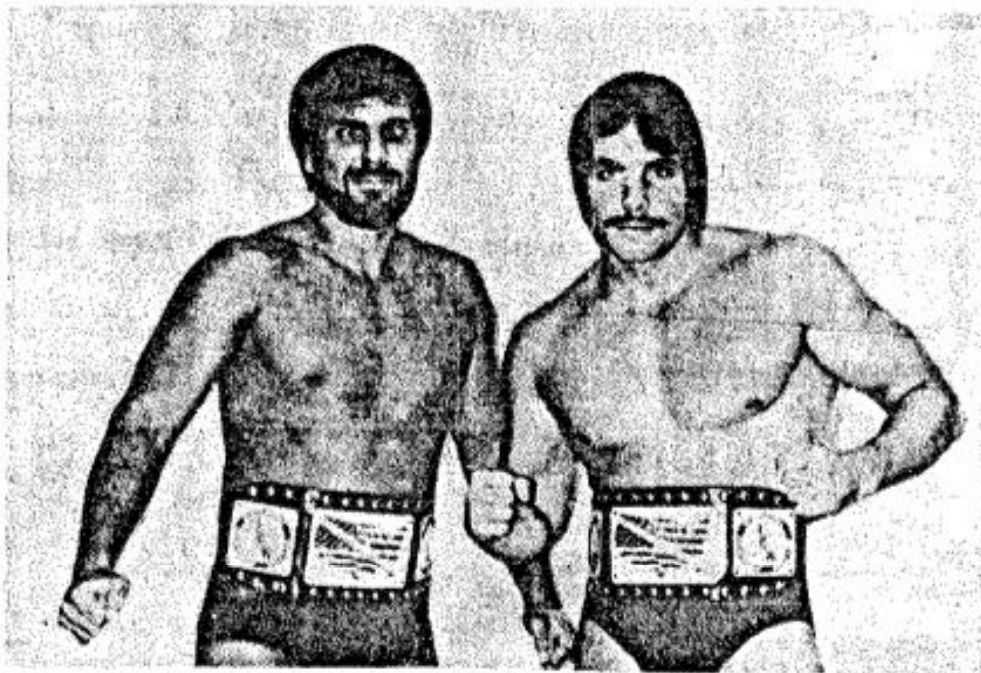
Pistol Pez Whatley and TV champion The Great Tio.

As a special attraction this year, the evening of championship wrestling will conclude with the Girls Mud Wrestling Match.

All ringside tickets are \$5.00; general admission adults, \$4.00; general admission children under 12, \$3.00. Children age four and under will be admitted free of charge. Tickets are now on sale at Norris City Shell, Southern Illinois Lumber Co., Cardinal Drive In, the Red and White Food Store and from any Lions member. Proceeds will help the local Lions Club for their many worthwhile projects.

Refreshments will be available in the school cafeteria.

The doors will open at 7:30 with wrestling beginning at 8:30 p.m. Don't miss it!



U.S. TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS
George Weingeroff and Leaping Lanny

In 1972, senior Mark Sciarra wrote in the Seymour High School student paper (The Owl) that he was going to become a professional wrestler. Sciarra obtained that goal and will make an appearance as Hustler Rip Rogers at the Seymour Armory Thursday, November 12. He will team with Gary Royal to wrestle in a Main Event U.S. Tag Team Title Match against the current champions, Leaping Lanny and George Weingeroff. In the opening match the third member of The Convertible Blonds, Rick Starr, will face seven foot, 500-pound Crusher Broomfield. The remainder of the I.C.W. card at the Armory will be; Pistol Pez Whatley vs Rick Zarta and The Great Tio vs Chief Tapu.

How did Mark Sciarra achieve his goal and become a professional wrestler? After graduating from S.H.S. in '72, he attended Indiana Central where he played football. His next move was to Union City to become a teacher and head football coach. His varsity team finished with a 9-1 record. Seeking fame and fortune, Sciarra left the teaching profession after one year. He landed a position as manager of Hofmeister's Gym in Indianapolis. At Hofmeister's, he met many of Indy's professional wrestlers that came there to body build.

In 1978, wrestler Handsome Jimmy Valiant convinced Sciarra to pursue his goal of becoming a wrestler. He wrestled in some stand-by matches in Indianapolis but had no chance of obtaining a championship match because of management.

From Indy, Sciarra headed north to Canada. He spent three months touring Canada and building a

reputation. He changed his name to the Disco Kid and traveled southward to Georgia, Mississippi, Tennessee and Kentucky. He signed with the National Wrestling Alliance for one year.

He is now with I.C.W. (International Championship Wrestling) and wrestles mostly in tag team events as one of The Convertible Blonds. He obtained the named

Hustler Rip Rogers while touring the west coast. I.C.W. is televised in Nashville, Memphis, Harrisburg, Evansville, Louisville, Lexington, Hazzard, Johnson City and Miami. I.C.W. can be seen in Seymour on Channel 41 or Cable 5 each Saturday from 1:30-2:30 p.m.

There are several "big men" in the wrestling profession. Sciarra is 5'11"

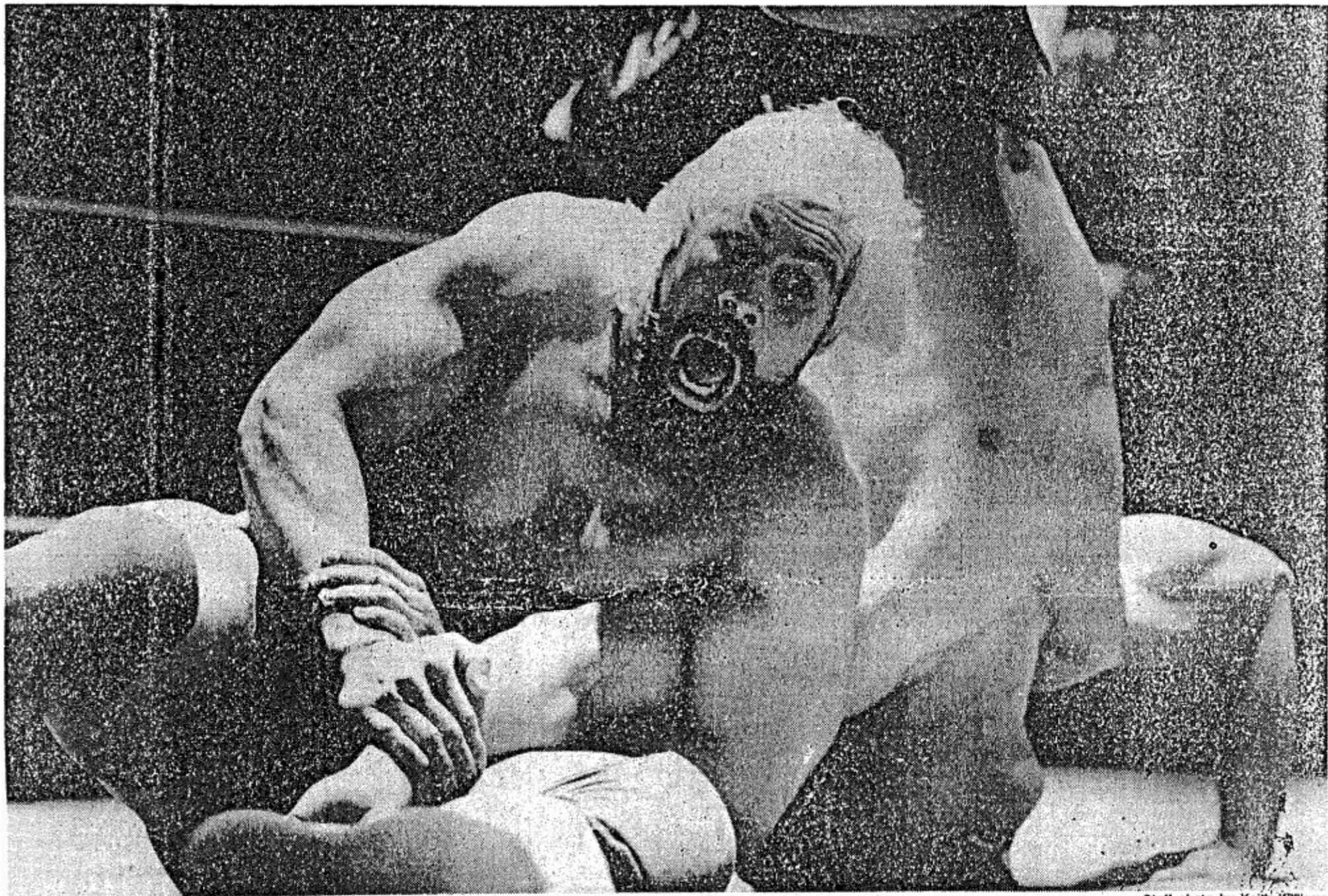
and weighs 220 pounds. He said that the biggest man he has had to wrestle was Andrea the Giant from France. The Giant is 7'5" and weighs 475 pounds.

On November 12 at 8:00 p.m. wrestling fans will be able to watch The Convertible Blonds featuring

Seymour's own Mark Sciarra in a U.S. Tag Team Championship Match.



Hustler Rip Rogers is the "bad guy" when he wrestles professionally, but to Julie VonDielingen, he is the "good guy" when he comes back to Seymour for a visit. After he wrestles at the Seymour National Guard Armory, Rip will compete in the "Volunteer Classic" physique contest in Athens, Tennessee.



Staff photo by Keith Williams

Rip Rogers, bleached blond hair flying, muscles an opponent to the mat during a recent match. "Some people don't like me," he says. "Most of the girls do."

RIP ROGERS

By DICK KAUKAS

Louisville Times Staff Writer

He was proud of his stomach. "Feel," he said, moving his arms back out of the way so you could reach in and touch it through the black T-shirt. It felt almost too hard, like ribbed plastic rather than human flesh.

Then he pulled the short sleeve up over his right shoulder so you could see the bicep. It was grayish beige in the dim light. He bent his arm at the elbow, and he pumped the muscle three quick times. It twitched as if there were a couple of large rodents trapped in there, trying to escape through the skin.

"This is all me," Rip Rogers said, his arm bulging again. "Right now I'm really ripping. I've lost 24 pounds in 30 days. I'm wrestling, but I'm concentrating on bodybuilding, too. I mean, wrestling is everything. Bodybuilding is really just training for wrestling."

Two little boys trudged up the steps of the Capital Plaza Sports Center in Frankfort toward the back row of seats where Rogers was talking. It was a Wednesday night, and the wrestling wouldn't start for almost another hour. The boys had recognized him.

"Can we get your autograph?" one of them asked, smiling as he held out a poster that had pictures of Rogers and other wrestlers on it.

Rogers blinked his blue eyes twice. "Look, not right now. I'm being interviewed," he said, waving them away.

"I do knee-pulls," Rogers said. "That's why my stomach is so hard. I do a thousand knee-pulls in a row every day. It takes me 27 minutes." He lies on his back on a padded bench, and he pulls his knees up to his chest. Then he straightens his legs out. His stomach gets hard.

"My blood pressure is 110 over 60. I work out at least two hours a day. I start every morning with food supplements and vitamins, and I eat right. I do stretching, calisthenics, free weights, Nautilus equipment."

He is 27 years old, weighs 192 and is five feet 10½ inches tall. His beard is black and his shoulder-length hair is blond, almost white. In bright light, you can see the dark roots. He is in shape. He is proud of how he looks.

"When you go to a strip joint, you want to see a beautiful girl with a beautiful body in a nice costume, not some fat whore with her belly hanging out," he said. "This is the

Professional wrestler Rip Rogers says he's not a good guy or a bad guy, but he is well-built and controversial

same thing. When I get out there and take my robe off, I look like somebody. I look like an athlete."

He leaned back. Below, the crowd thickened. An old man with a crutch walked with a gray-haired woman. Two girls in sweaters and jeans circled clockwise around the ring. Every once in a while one would reach behind her, trying to scratch a place in the middle of her back that was almost impossible to touch. Near the ring, a girl in high heels kept pulling at the legs of her shiny pink shorts, making sure just enough of her was covered.

Rogers was asked if he was married.

He snorted and smiled. "You can't stay married in this business," he said. "Too many fringe benefits." He raised his dark eyebrows. "You wouldn't believe the fringe benefits."

It was time to go. He was in the first match, and he had to get to the dressing room and change into his pinkish shorts, yellow robe, calf-length boots. Two little girls came up the steps. He signed his autograph for one.

The other asked, "Would you care to sign mine, too?"

"Sure, sure," Rogers said. He signed. Down by the ring, he stopped once more, this time to sign the pictures for the two little boys he had waved off earlier. Then he disappeared behind a partition.

He was born in California and grew up in Seymour, Ind. He went to high school there.

"When I was 14," Rogers said later that evening, "my chest was 32 and my waist was 36." He was fat. He started lifting weights. He played football, basketball and baseball. As he remembers it, his high school yearbook said he wanted to play football in college and then become a professional wrestler. He loved wrestling. He watched it on TV. He subscribed to wrestling magazines.

After he graduated from Indiana Central University in Indianapolis, he taught and coached high school for a year. He said he was a successful coach.

"But I quit 'cause there was no

money in it. I moved back to Indianapolis and ran a bodybuilding gym for a year. Handsome Jimmy Valiant, a wrestler, you heard of him? He worked out there. One night, somebody he was supposed to wrestle with didn't show up, so I borrowed boots and trunks and went into the ring. I didn't last long that time. That was in 1977. I've been doing it full-time for three years now," the last two with the Lexington-based International Championship Wrestling (ICW).

Along the way, he changed his name to "Hustler" Rip Rogers.

"That's my ring name," he said. "I don't use my real name. When people find out what it is, they start calling my parents and everything else. You wouldn't believe what people do. I was living in a house in Lexington, and they started driving through the yard, throwing toilet paper, soaping the windows. I've had bricks thrown at my car. I have to hide it in some towns. Some people don't like me. Most of the girls do. But I don't use my real name. Mine is real uncharismatic. It's Italian and real hard to pronounce."

The match begins

About a half-hour after Rogers had gone to change, a ring announcer rang a loud bell. The crowd had swelled to about 800.

"First of all," the announcer said, "we want no profanity in the building. Do not throw anything in the building. Do not stand on the chairs and do not run. If you are caught throwing anything or using profanity, you will be escorted out."

The bell rang again. Rogers and his two partners, Ricky Starr and Gary Royal, came in, mincing, on their toes. There were some taunts about how pretty they looked. Starr sported a fluffy white robe with a bunny's head on the back. Rogers wore his yellow, thigh-length robe and yellow boots. Royal, whose nose was supposed to have been broken so he couldn't wrestle that night, was in a brown suit. He acted as manager of the three-man group called "The Convertible Blondes."

There were more taunts and some cheers as Rogers and Starr primped

and postured. They acted as if they were stripping when they took off their robes, grinning as they did a stylized bump and grind.

They won the match. Starr pinned a man named Terry Eagle. Outside

the ring, Rogers diverted the attention of Eagle's muscular partner so Eagle couldn't tag him. When you tag your partner, he comes in to relieve you. Starr wore Eagle out and pinned him. It took five minutes

and 38 seconds.

Then the Convertible Blondes strutted around on tiptoe, holding their index fingers aloft before heading back to the dressing room.



Friday, Dec. 11, 1981 / Sportaction

Staff photo by Keith Williams
Rip Rogers likes to give the crowd a little bump and grind as he strips down for ring action.

A while after that, Rogers came out and went up to the top row of seats in the arena to talk some more.

"I didn't even have to take a shower, that was so short," he said, blinking. "I didn't even work up a sweat."

He was asked if the booing meant the Convertible Blondes were "bad guys."

"Well, we're not good and we're not bad, but we say what we want and we're well-built and controversial. A lot of girls like us."

He stood on his toes, and you could hear something pop in his ankles. "My joints are shot," he said. He blamed football and wrestling as he listed his ailments:

Bone chips in both knees ("That's why I have to wear knee pads in the ring. And I can't give a kneeling pose when I'm in bodybuilding competition because then I can't get up"), a cracked joint in his shoulder, a cauliflower ear from so many headlocks, bone chips in his right elbow, a broken nose. "I've been drop-kicked in the mouth and one of my teeth came through my cheek. I've had stitches over my eyebrows."

About two years ago, a vertebra in his neck was broken when he hit a ring post. "My fingers started moving involuntarily, like this." He held his hand up and slowly twitched his fingers. "I thought I was paralyzed. I was in the hospital five days."

He was asked if all wrestling matches are fixed, so completely choreographed that each wrestler knows not only who will win but what moves will be put on whom and in what sequence.

Rogers shrugged and blinked. "Don't you hear that about all sports?" he asked. "Doesn't the World Series usually go seven games?"

Down in the ring, it was time for the main event. Randy "Macho Man" Savage emerged from a cloud of white thrown out by a smoke-making machine. Brenda Britton, or "Miss Macho Man," escorted him to the ring.

"Randy's our world champion," Rogers said. Randy's opponent was known simply as "Leaping Lanny." Rogers claimed Randy and Lanny were half brothers, "only nobody believes it." They put on a good show, jumping and throwing each other around the ring. Sometimes Savage would spit at Lanny, and the crowd would boo.

As they kicked and pounded, Rogers was asked how much an average wrestler can expect to make in a year.

"About \$25,000, maybe \$27,000," he said. "But if you're good, you can make \$100,000 easy."

The most he ever made in one night, Rogers said, was \$1,500 for wrestling the main event in a West Coast match a few years ago.

More typically, he claimed, the winner of the main event might expect \$400 to \$600, while the loser of the first match of the night might receive \$80 or \$90. It all depends on the size of the gate.

(Joe Ball, a Louisville policeman who wrestles at various locations, was asked about Rogers' estimates. He said he thought they were "a little bit exaggerated." He agreed, however, that the winner usually is paid "a little bit more" than the loser.

ICW wrestling drew 818 people to the Sports Center in Frankfort on Nov. 4. They paid \$3,386 for tickets. Center rental was \$619, so that night ICW cleared \$2,767 to pay all its expenses, including the wrestlers.

(Ball said ICW is still trying to establish itself, but "it has some of the best wrestlers around here. Savage is probably the best in this area, but he hasn't gone over yet." He pointed out that several thousand people regularly attend "Championship Wrestling" matches at Louisville Gardens every Tuesday, while ICW events at Commonwealth Convention Center usually draw far fewer people.

(Thanksgiving night, for example, between 400 and 500 were at the center for ICW wrestling.

(Ball also was asked if wrestling is choreographed. "If it is, they haven't shown me," he said. "I always plan on winning when I go in the ring, and I usually do pretty good.")

Down in the ring, Savage was mauling Lanny. The crowd was going wild. Rogers looked.

"Savage bench-presses 415 pounds," he said. "I've seen Lanny press 225 30 times. He probably presses, what, something like 380?"

He was asked if he thought of Savage and Lanny as friends, and he snorted and laughed.

"You don't make many friendships in wrestling. Everybody's like a free agent. There's a lot of money involved, and there's a lot of competition. You learn in the school of hard knocks. Nobody shows you nothing."

Savage spit at Lanny again and jumped through the ropes to dodge a charge.

The match ended in a draw. Three boys appeared from the right, each carrying something that he wanted signed. "They've spotted me," Rogers said. He retreated into a corridor and walked toward the dressing room.

Taking a break

Two weeks later, on a Monday

afternoon, a woman with long, silver-blond hair answered the door to Rogers' Lexington apartment. She was wearing a navy blue sweatsuit. She went into a back room. Rogers was clad in red shorts and a maroon sweatsuit top. He was barefoot. He was playing some video tapes of wrestling matches he had recorded off his TV. (ICW wrestling is shown on several television stations in the Midwest and South, including WDRB-41 in Louisville, where it is broadcast at 1:30 p.m. Saturdays.)

He showed the tapes on his 5-foot screen, which dominated the room.

Rogers was tired. It had been a long weekend. "Friday I wrestled in Benton, Ill. Saturday I was in Carbondale. Then we drove all night, and I got to Indianapolis just in time to report in for the bodybuilding contest up there, Mr. Hoosier State, yesterday morning."

After he checked in at 9 a.m., he shaved his body and sat in a sauna to "sweat off some water weight. It makes you look good. It gets rid of that bloated look." He took second place in the competition.

On the screen, a beardless Rogers was saying something about girls, making it clear that "we don't want any ugly ones." Then, before the match started, he threw his opponent out of the ring. As he watched himself, he said, "See, he turned his back on me. I do a lot of abnormal things out there. I'm so little, nobody else is in the shape I'm in. Nobody else is as fast. Some guys do three or four things very well. I do a lot, but none of it very well." He laughed.

There were tapes of other matches. Before wrestling Leaping Lanny, Rogers chastised him for "exposing" his old partner, "The Masked Avenger," adding, "Leaping Lanny, you're a wimp. You go to hospitals to cheer up little kids." As he watched the tape, Rogers said, "I broke his nose this match."

Lanny came on the screen. He talked about Rogers' "over-bleached" hair. When the match started, they ran around, pounding each other.

"I puke a lot after matches," Rogers said with a chuckle.

On the screen, he looked bigger than he is now. "That was in my fat stage," he said, back when he weighed 218 or so. He won by using the "ring girl." He threw her into his opponent, who couldn't get back in the ring before the referee disqualified him.

There was a gap in the tape. "I pulled his trunks down, and they had to cut it," Rogers said. Rogers threw a referee out of the ring. Another referee appeared. This one ignored it every time the Convertible Blondes were in trouble. Then he gave the Blondes the victory with an extra quick count.

"See, that was Gary Royal (the third Convertible Blonde) who came in as the second ref," Rogers said. "That was before anybody around here really knew him."

He was asked if he enjoys wrestling.

"I wouldn't do it if I didn't," he said. On the screen, a wrestler referred to Rogers as "a bleached blonde geek head."

He was asked about his hair.

"I have it done once every three weeks. I have to use conditioners. It's damaged. Sometimes when you get your hair done, it frizzes up and just breaks off. It's rare for a guy to have his hair blond for three years like I've had it. Usually it just breaks off."

Usually, he eats at a restaurant once a day when he's in Lexington. Almost always it's the same restaurant. It offers a smorgasbord of salad, ribs, beef stew, fried chicken, cheese. He avoids desserts.

Three times a day, Rogers said, he takes vitamins and diet supplements. He walked into the kitchen. On the counter were more than a dozen bottles of pills. There were bottles of brewer's yeast, potassium, vitamin C, lecithin, rose hips and several others.

"I take about 60 pills a day. It makes me healthy." He said he doesn't drink beer or anything else with alcohol in it. He said he takes no drugs, although he said there are wrestlers who do. He said he doesn't smoke. "I'll be 28 in two months. I'm just coming into my prime now. I don't want to be old before my time."

There was a knock on the door. Rogers looked through the peephole for a long moment. Then he let in two men. They introduced themselves and said they were epileptics. They asked Rogers for his "vote of confidence." He asked how much this would cost. They said it would entail buying a magazine. Rogers gave them \$32 for a subscription to a periodical on running. They thanked him and left.

Rogers and the blond woman walked out to his car. It was a battered Pinto. He said he never gets the body fixed because "people find out who I am, and they run into it on purpose." He drove to the restaurant where he eats every day. At a red light, the blond woman leaned over and rested her head on his shoulder.

Happy Thanksgiving

Three days later, on Thanksgiving night, Rogers was in Louisville to wrestle at Commonwealth Convention Center against Leaping Lanny. The crowd was small. Many of those in it were buying 32-ounce cups of beer for \$2.

Rogers had eaten Thanksgiving dinner at his parents' house, and he said he was "full, too full" as he

waited through the first few matches. Then he walked to the ring. He stopped and laughed at a group of men who were yelling insults at him. He climbed through the ropes and noticed a woman in white who was hanging on her date and yelling: "Jerk his pants down and see if he's a real guy, Lanny."

Rogers looked at the man beside this woman and said loudly enough for both of them to hear, "Nice date you got there, pal."

The woman laughed and shouted, "Mess his hair up, Lanny."

Rogers gyrated, swaying from side to side as he slowly took off his yellow robe. "Hustler" was written on the back of his yellow shorts. "Rip Rogers" was written on the front.

The match started:

"Smack his pretty face, Lanny," the woman in white yelled. Lanny did. "He smacked my face! He smacked my face!" Rogers yelled in outrage. The crowd laughed.

"I like this Rogers guy," a man a few rows away said to a companion. "I like the way he talks in there."

At this point, Rogers seemed to have gained an advantage. He was throwing Lanny around the ring.

"Hey, Rogers, your mother wants you home by 11," the woman in white yelled.

Rogers pulled Lanny's hair. Lanny bit Rogers' hand. Spit flew from somewhere. Rogers reached into his trunks.

"Hey, does it feel good?" the woman in white shouted. "You sissy."

Then Rogers had Lanny in a headlock.

"I got him," he said, but Lanny eventually freed himself. Then they ran across the ring with brio, bounced off the ropes, jumped over each other, kicked each other in the eyes, slammed into each other, fell down, got up, collapsed in a heap, but never bled or seemed really hurt. The crowd loved it.

Somehow, Rogers ended up in a corner, holding onto the top ropes. Lanny grabbed his feet so Rogers' body was parallel to the mat.

"No! No!" Rogers shouted.

"Yes, yes," the woman in white said.

Lanny shook him, as if he were shaking out a rug, and dropped him on his back. Rogers moaned. Moments later, Lanny pinned him. The crowd cheered, but Rogers had the last word. He threw Lanny out of the ring, mauled him, and left him lying on his back on the floor.

Later, Rogers complained about the size of the crowd.

"We got more people than this in Shelbyville last night for the mud-wrestling show. I didn't wrestle. It's more like burlesque. We use it as a special attraction, lady mud wres-

ting. We also have midget wrestlers, and midget lady wrestlers. You have to use a booking agency to get midgets. We had our own, but one of them is paralyzed now."

He was asked about the insults from the woman in white, and he shrugged.

"A lot of people like me even though some say I'm a bad guy. I'm a young, good-looking guy with a good body, and there's some respect when a guy takes off his robe and he's a stud."

The only reason he lost, Rogers said, was that "he knocked the wind out of me."

DEC. 11, 1981



WRESTLING

Wednesday, February 10, 1982

Capital Plaza Sports Center

Frankfort, Ky.



**Next Sunday, February 14th 8 P.M.
14-Man \$5,000 Battle Royal!!**

2 Title Matches! Savage, Crusher, Street Fight!

This coming Sunday, February 14th, at Lexington's Henry Clay High School could well be a Valentine's Day massacre when 14 wrestlers vie for the \$5,000 jackpot in the Main Event Battle Royal. To be eliminated from this Royal a man must be thrown over the Tope Rope or be pinned.

MAIN EVENT

Mop Hat Match

Loser of match must wear
Mop Hat until he wins a
match on T.V.

RONNIE GARVIN

230 lb. Montreal, Can.

VS

"Bad Pistol"

PEZ WHATLEY

235 lb. Chattanooga, Tenn.
New Co-Holder U.S. Tag Title

New Champions Defend Title!

New U.S. Tag Team Champions "Hustler" Rip Rogers and "Bad Pistol" Pez Whatley (who is now "Bad, Black and Blonde") will make their first title defense against former co-holder Leaping Lanny and Big Boy Williams. Both teams must be regarded as unusual combinations. Lanny is a former co-holder of the U.S. Tag Title and Big Boy is a former co-holder of the Southern Tag Title, but this will be the first time they have teamed up. Both men are no strangers to Tag Title competition and if they get their teamwork together they could easily dethrone the New Champions. The Champions themselves are an unusual team with vastly different styles and came about only because of the pairings drawn in the tournament a few weeks ago in Johnson City, Tenn. It will be up to manager Gary Royal to keep things running smooth if they are to remain champions for long.

Brutal Street Fight! "Macho Man" VS Crusher

Randy "Macho Man" Savage takes on Crusher Broomfield in a "Texas Street Fight." It's a "come as you are," no holds barred brawl, no time limit, no DQ, fight to a finish. One man must give up or be unable to continue. Savage will be the favorite in this type of match as his style is more along these lines. As for Crusher, it will be a test to see how much he has learned from Ronnie Garvin. If he's learned his lessons well and with his size, The "Macho Man" could well be in for a surprise!

Garvin Defends VS "Moneyman of Wrestling"

The "one man gang" Ronnie Garvin puts his Southeastern Championship on the line against the "Moneyman of Wrestling," The Miser. Ronnie recently exposed The Miser on T.V. as Angelo Poffo but no one will really be sure until the mask comes off. Ronnie will surely have this on his mind during Sunday's match!

RANDY "Macho Man" SAVAGE

240 lb. Sarasota, Fla.

VS

BIG BOY WILLIAMS

238 lb. Knoxville, Tenn.

U.S. Heavyweight Championship

THE SHEIK

230 lb. Syria
Champion

VS

CRUSHER BROOMFIELD

454 lb. Spartanburg, S.C.

THE SAMOANS

Tio and Tapu

Combined wt. 482 lbs. Samoa

VS

LEAPING LANNY

226 lb. Amarillo, Tex.

and

JOHN RUFFIN

220 lb. Cincinnati, Ohio

"Hustler" RIP ROGERS

222 lb. Hollywood, Calif.
New Co-Holder U.S. Tag Title

VS

BILL MARTIN

210 lb. Shelbyville, Ky.
1981 Rookie of the Year

NEXT WRESTLING DATE HERE
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 1982

Reserve tickets for next month's
wrestling tonight at box office
during intermission.

WARNING!!

Several people have been injured
by thrown objects. Wrestling
fans are cautioned to stay away
from the ring and the wrestlers
at all times. Violators will be
ejected from the building and
barred!

**FREE
WRESTLING
MATCHES**

Every Other
Thursday 8:45 a.m.
at The Studios
of WTVQ, Ch. 36
Lexington, Ky.

Next Taping Date: Feb. 11



Street Fight Action—Brutal and
Bloody!



Ronnie Garvin



The Miser

**For Great
All-Star Action
Watch
INTERNATIONAL
CHAMPIONSHIP
WRESTLING!**

Watch I.C.W. T.V. Wrestling every Saturday at 1:30 p.m. on WDRB, Ch. 41, Louisville, Kentucky and from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. on WTVQ, Ch. 36, Lexington, Kentucky.